AGRI NEWS

May 5, 1975

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SLAVE LAKE INDIAN BANDS SEEK BUSINESS VENTURES

by Clyde McMurchy
Information Officer with the Alberta Export Agency

Chief Walter Twinn of the Sawridge Band who is helping to direct the agricultural potential in the Slave Lake area.

"The leadership shown by Chief Walter Twinn and other band leaders in Alberta's Lesser Slave Lake region could well serve as a guide and inspiration for other native groups from one end of Canada to the other."

The above statement, made recently by an official of the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, indicates the high regard in which Chief Twinn and other band leaders are held.

A spokesman for the Alberta government expressed a similar view when he said, "if the native people of the Lesser Slave Lake area have shown more initiative and business acumen than most other Indians, much of the credit must go to Walter Twinn, chief and business manager for the Sawridge Indian Band".

In addition to directing the social, cultural and business affairs of his own band, Chief Twinn is president of the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Council, an association of 11 bands representing more than 5,000 people.

(continued)

Slave Lake Indian Bands Seek Business Ventures (cont'd)

Five of the bands are located in the Slave Lake area, the others are scattere throughout the South Peace River region.

Chief Twinn and the Sawridge band made the headlines in 1971 when they announced plans to construct a modern motor hotel at Slave Lake.

"At one of our regular council meetings it was suggested that the native people needed to play a bigger role in the area's development", Chief Twinn recalls. "We decided that involvement in a business enterprise such as a hotel would unite us and give us a goal to aim for."

Today, after three years in operation, the Sawridge Motor Hotel stands out as a northern landmark. Its distinctive Indian design and decor have drawn many favourable comments, but even more important, it is well operated and has proved to be a business success. Thirty more rooms have been added to the original 30 and a new tavern was opened last June. Total investment now exceeds $1,300,000.

"The success of the Sawridge Motor Hotel gave our people a feeling of accomplishment and a confidence we didn't have before," says Chief Twinn, "Now we are looking at other ways to become involved".

Chief Twinn said that when the Lesser Slave Lake regional council considered all the alternatives, it was convinced that the heavy stands of aspen and spruce in the area were their biggest asset. Three private Indian logging outfits and a sawmill were already operating near Slave Lake. With these services as a base, the council felt that a large scale wood industry could be developed.

(continued)

Slave Lake Indian Bands Seek Business Ventures (cont'd)

Discussions between band leaders, federal and provincial government agencies followed, and a new company, Alberta Aspen Board, was formed. Chief Twinn was named a director. The new company is now in the process of developing a fully integrated forest industry involving lumber, pulp and prefabricated house construction.

The first stage of the project, an aspen board plant, is now under construction. It is being financed jointly by a Swiss firm, Ameropa of Zurich, and Alberta Aspen Board Ltd. Ameropa will invest more than $2.2 million in the $7.5 million plant and the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion will provide a grant of approximately $2 million.

The balance of the financing was provided by Indians and non-Indians, through a loan guaranteed by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Several private Alberta investors are also involved.

Now that the Slave Lake forest industry project has been safely launched, Chief Twinn is looking at other possible areas of business involvement. Of the 100,000 acres under band control, about 30,000 could be used for beef and/or dairy production, he claims.

Chief Twinn has other irons in the fire as well. Recently a trip to Europe was arranged by the Alberta Export Agency for the chief and a small Alberta delegation. One of the things discussed in West Germany was the possibility of building a brewery at Slave Lake using a combination of Alberta and German capital and 'know-how'. Chief Twinn says four bands are already involved in farming in the Peace River country.

(continued)

Slave Lake Indian Bands Seek Business Ventures (cont'd)

To the Europeans he pointed out that, with the proper incentives, it would be possible to produce a large volume of malting barley for such a plant. Discussions were also held regarding construction of a malting plant in the area.

According to Chief Twinn, the German and Swiss financiers and businessmen were hospitable and courteous. They also appeared to be genuinely interested.

With a big smile Chief Twinn said, "I hope they were impressed with the investment possibilities in the Lesser Slave Lake area and not just the native headdress I happened to be wearing."

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ALBERTA BEEKEEPERS COMMISSION FORMED

Marvin E. Moore, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, has announced the formation of an Alberta Beekeepers Commission.

The commission, the fourth such body to be established under the Alberta Marketing of Agricultural Products Act, will be responsible for conducting programs to initiate research, improve beekeeping methods and stimulate and improve the marketing of honey. They will include research into "wintering" and management techniques of beekeeping and studies dealing with consumer needs and demands.

Mr. Moore says that the decision to form the Alberta Beekeepers Commission was made in consultation with members of the Alberta Beekeepers Association after a series of public meetings to discuss the proposed commission with honey producers.

Five beekeepers have been appointed to serve as a provisional board of directors until the commission's first annual meeting which will be held within 12 months. At that time the directors will be elected by the producers. The provisional members are:

Gerard Paradis,	Falher
Dale Philpott,	Brooks
Gerard Hachey,	Falher
Edward Martens,	La Crete
Franklin Butz,	Spruce Grove

Mr. Moore plans to meet with the group early in May to discuss implementation of the commission's work.

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BOAR LEG WEAKNESS RESEARCH

by

Sam Harbison, Alberta Agriculture

A top performing boar with unsound legs has little if any use as a herd sire!

Leg weakness is a syndrom which involves defective posture and function in the legs of the pig. Because leg weakness tends to be more severe in fast-growing male pigs, it has become increasingly conspicuous among pigs raised under intensive production conditions as are found in record of performance testing stations.

This condition drastically reduces the number of boars from which breeding stock can be selected, and, since it affects pigs of high and low genetic merit, it seriously impedes any genetic program aimed at improving the quality of swine.

A characteristic of leg weakness is the erosion of cartilage in the main leg joints. Although many factors are known to contribute to cartilage break-down, there is still no complete answer to the causes of leg weakness. However, research is continuing in an effort to isolate the causes.

Detailed observations were recorded in 1972 at the Canada Department of Agriculture's research station at Lacombe on the structural

(continued)

soundness of feet and legs of boars at the record of performance test station. Both live and slaughtered appraisals were done on the boars to determine whether leg damage might be present without any visable signs.

It was found that there was little correlation between damage observed on live animals and that observed in the joint cartilages when the pigs were slaughtered. Although most of the live pigs showed few signs of problems, almost all the slaughtered animals had some evidence of cartilage damage. Damage appeared to be more prevalent in the heavier, faster-growing pigs. The greatest degree of damage was in the joint where the front leg joins the foot (humerus-prox radius ulna joint). It was also noted that the left front leg was more prone to cartilage damage than the right.

It is interesting that in another experiment at Lacombe, where all the boars from several litters were studied in the same way as those in the above experiment,no correlation was noted between rate of gain and the occurrence of leg weakness.

Other research has shown that leg weakness occurs most often in boars and least often in barrows, with gilts in-between the two.

The University of Alberta conducted an experiment last year on 12 boars in an attempt to find out whether lack of exercise

(continued)

was a contributing factor. Divided into three groups, one group of pigs received no exercise, while the other two groups were given treadmill exercise at different speeds for 60 minutes a day for three days a week. Although it was found that exercise tended to decrease joint damage, it did not eliminate it.

In a nutrition trial at the Edmonton Record of Performance Test Station, it was found that the levels of calcium, phosphorous and magnesium in the ration did not seem to have much bearing on the incidence of leg weakness.

At the present time the University of Alberta is conducting another experiment to find out whether concrete floors in pig pens are a contributory factor. The experiment involves 96 Yorkshire and cross-bred boars from 24 litters - four pigs from each litter. They are divided into two groups. One group is kept on a concrete floor with very little bedding,while the other is kept in pens with dirt floors and plenty of bedding.

The pigs are being slaughtered at six different stages in their development, varying from about four pounds to approximately 240 pounds. As the pigs are slaughtered, all their leg joints are inspected. Blood samples are analyzed for chemical constituents, bone samples are

(continued)

analyzed for calcium and phosphorous, and cartilage samples are analyzed to characterize structural components. Finally, half the carcass is separated into fat, lean and bone to determine the relationship between soft body tissue and bone tissue.

Those conducting the experiment will also attempt to determine at what stage of development damage begins to occur and to describe physical and chemical differences between normal pigs and those with leg weakness.

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PEA VARIETY YIELDS IN ALBERTA REGIONAL TESTS

The data on pea yields given below were obtained in regional tests conducted by Dr. K. Briggs and Dr. Z. Kondra of the Department of Plant Science at the University of Alberta as part of the Crop Variety Testing and Demonstration Project funded by Alberta Agriculture.

The results are reported according to the crop zones used by the Alberta Cereal and Oilseeds Advisory Committee and are based on replicated yield tests at each location. The varieties fall into two maturity groups, the later group requiring up to seven to 10 days longer to reach maturity.

Early varieties = Blues, SS Freezer, Yellows

Later varieties = Century, Greenwrinkle, Trapper

It should be noted that the yield levels obtained in these tests are generally higher than would normally be obtained under farm conditions.

Although protein levels in the grain were not determined in the tests, recent results form Agriculture Canada and university tests in Manitoba and Saskatchewan indicate that the average protein content of peas in Western Canada is about 25 per cent. However, considerable variability can be expected, depending on the site and year.

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Pea Variety Yields in Alberta Regional Tests (cont'd)

The following tables show yields in hundredweights of seed per acre obtained from six pea varieties grown at nine different sites located in the four agricultural zones of Alberta during the years 1972, 1973 and 1974.

Zone 1

Variety	Brooks 1973	Brooks 1974
1 Trapper	17.0	15.2
2 Greenwrinkle	13.7	16.4
3 Century	14.7	22.2
4 SS Freezer	11.0	11.3
5 Blues	16.2	11.0
6 Yellows	14.1	18.8

Zone 2

Variety	Olds 1973	Coronation 1974
1 Trapper	23.7	9.9
2 Greenwrinkle	18.7	7.1
3 Century	24.5	8.9
4 SS Freezer	17.4	8.1
5 Blues	20.0	7.4
6 Yellows	24.3	8.1

Zone 3

	Ellerslie	Ellerslie	Vermilion		Ellerslie	Glendon Corner
Variety	1972	1973	1973	1974	1974	1974
1 Trapper	24.6	24.8	16.5	23.5	21.4	11.9
2 Greenwrinkle	16.1	20.3	15.2	19.6	19.9	10.6
3 Century	24.0	26.7	21.5	20.5	13.6	7.6
4 SS Freezer	-	18.9	13.6	16.8	17.5	10.3
5 Blues	-	18.2	10.8	-	21.2	-
6 Yellows	-	15.9	10.7	-	-	-

(continued)

Pea Variety Yields in Alberta Regional Tests (cont'd)

Zone 4

Variety	Ft. Vermilion 1972	Fairview 1973	High Level 1973	High Level 1974
1 Trapper	7.4	23.5	16.4	10.9
2 Greenwrinkle	7.5	24.1	15.4	11.8
3 Century	6.7	27.5	20.3	9.7
4 SS Freezer	-	23.4	16.4	9.8
5 Blues	-	22.9	17.0	-
6 Yellows	-	17.0	19.5	-

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ALBERTA HAS NEW BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION

Alberta's new breeders' association, tentatively called Alberta All Breeds Association Limited, is expected to co-ordinate the promotional activities and sales of nearly 30 individual breed associations in the province.

Its objectives are to promote and sell Alberta livestock and semen on world markets; to develop an overall market strategy; to help solve common industry problems; to provide a 'vehicle' for government co-operation and financial assistance to livestock and semen exporters; and to expand present markets and develop new ones.

To achieve these objectives the association has set up several committees. Two of these are an outgoing mission committee, chaired by Lawrence Henderson of Lacombe, and an incoming mission committee, chaired by Herman Linder of Cardston.

It was suggested at the association's inaugural meeting, held recently at the Hereford Center near Innisfail, that a follow up visit to last fall's Alberta livestock display in Mexico City be arranged. It was also suggested that this visit coincide with the Mexican Livestock Convention at the beginning of June.

The new association has already sent out 40 invitations to visit Alberta to cattle buyers and cattle industry leaders in 12 countries. They include Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Cuba.

(continued)

Alberta Has New Breeders' Association (cont'd)

Membership in the association is open to all breed associations in Alberta. The fee is $100 per year. Organizations, companies and individuals can take out an associate membership.

Each breed association that takes out a membership in the Alberta All Breeds Association will have one voting delegate who is automatically a director. The executive committee is composed of the president, Ken Copithorne of Cochrane; the vice-president, John Hay of Innisfail; and two directors, Tony Saretsky of Calgary and Doug Blair of Balzac. Vic Janssen of Alberta Agriculture will be working closely with this group.

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END OF BEAR DAMAGE TO BEEYARDS IN SIGHT

The honeybee season is upon us once again and the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division's beeyard bear control crews are ready for action in the Peace River area.

These crews trapped and removed 182 bears from the area two years ago because they were damaging beeyards. The number removed last year was only 82, partly because Alberta Agriculture gave beekeepers a subsidy to build electric fences around their apiaries and partly because of the results they obtained from their experimental taste aversion project.

Alberta Agriculture is again offering a $100 subsidy for every new electric fence that meets the prescribed specifications. The subsidy is available to every beekeeper in the province. The $100 subsidy applies to a limit of 15 new fences per beekeeping operation per year. Last year 249 fences were erected under the program, 206 of which were in the Peace River region.

Alberta's supervisor of Apiculture, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, says a properly constructed electric fence, three or four wires high, will do much to discourage bears from investigating bee hives, providing it is serviced regularly. He points out that honey is not a part of a bear's normal diet because it is not available in any quantity under natural conditions. However, bears are attracted by the smell of honey and bee brood any by their natural curiosity.

(continued)

End of Bear Damage to Beeyards in Sight (cont'd)

These will cause bears to investigate the situation, with the result that unprotected beeyards are often badly damaged.

In the experimental taste aversion project a chemical is inserted into a comb which contains both honey and bee brood. The comb is then placed where a bear will find it before he attempts to get into the beeyard. After devouring it, he becomes violently ill. His association of his reaction to the chemical with the food he has eaten discourages him form repeating the procedure.

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PRICE SPREAD BETWEEN HEIFERS AND STEERS

"There is still a lot of talk among farmers about the price spread between finished heifers and steers, even though it has narrowed since last fall", says Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Red Deer.

He points out that the federal Prices Review Board documents some of the reasons given for this price spread in its publication "The Market for Heifer Beef in Canada". They include the following:

. Heifers generally have a two per cent less dressing weight than steers of similar quality.

. Heifers in early pregnancy have a lower dressing percentage than non-pregnant heifers, and there is always the risk that a heifer may be pregnant.

. A heifer carcass has less by-product, mainly hide, than a steer carcass. Meat packers rely on the return from the by-product to provide much of their gross margin.

. Research on heifer and steer carcasses averaging 560 pounds indicates that heifers yield approximately two per cent less saleable meat.

. On the average heifers produce carcasses 100 - 150 pounds lighter than those of steers. The cost per pound of retail meat is higher for lighter carcasses because labor costs and packing materials are similar for both weight categories.

. Smaller cuts from smaller carcasses reduce the total volume of meat sold because many meat cuts are selected on the basis of one cut per person (i.e. steaks). The retailer's gross margin is directly related to the volume of meat sold.

. The buying policy of some of the larger retail chain stores does not allow them to buy heifer beef.

. The price of heifers is very sensitive to current market supplies. As the proportion of heifers in the total slaughter increases, there is a corresponding decrease in the price of heifers relative to steers.

(continued)

Price Spread Between Heifers and Steers (cont'd)

. Before deciding whether to buy replacement heifers or steers, cattle feeders consider the prospective selling prices and relative costs of adding a pound of gain. These comparisons determine the price spread between replacement heifers and steers. From June 1973 to June 1974, the average price spread was 6.59¢. This spread resulted in a lower breakeven price on finished heifers.

. The Food Prices Review Board calculates that the quantifiable factors account for a price spread of 4.66¢ per live hundredweight between heifers and steers. This price spread is based on 460-pound heifer carcasses and 600-pound steer carcasses. The breakdown is as follows:

a) Decrease in cutting per cent	2.0¢ per pound of carcass.
b) Increased labor for cutting	1.2¢
c) Increased packing material	0.5¢
d) Increased meat packer handling	1.5¢
Total - carcass basis	5.2¢
- liveweight basis	4.66¢

Mr. Karren reports that the average liveweight price spread between heifers and steers at Calgary from January 1974 to October 1974 was 5.55¢. The difference between the quantifiable 4.66¢ and the actual 5.55¢ was 0.89¢. This difference, Mr. Karren says, can be attributed to:

a) The increased supply of heifers in the fall of 1974.
b) The reluctance of some retailers to buy heifer carcasses at no matter what price.
c) The lower breakeven price on finished heifers, mainly because of a lower replacement purchase price.

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FIELD SPRAYER SPECIFICATIONS

Alberta Agriculture's Plant Industry staff suggest that anyone who is planning to recondition his field sprayer or to buy a new one follow the recommended specifications listed below.

They are for the application of 10 gallons of liquid per acre at speeds of up to six miles an hour. Agricultural researchers are now recommending higher volumes of water per acre because many herbicides are less harsh on the crop when applied with more water. Also, spray drift is easier to control with the larger-sized nozzles that are used with higher volumes of water.

To use the chart below, pick the boom width and tank size on the chart that match the ones on your sprayer, or on the sprayer you intend to buy. Then compare the sizes of your sprayer's other components with those listed on the chart for that sized sprayer. If they do not meet these minimum requirements, the sprayer will not perform adequately, and you will be disappointed in your weed control results.

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Boom Width	Tank size Imperial Gallons	Filter Openings	Pump capacity (gallons per minute)	Pump Openings	Line sizes - inside diameter			
					Boom	By-pass	Agitator	Boom pipe
30'	150	3/4"	7.0	3/4"	1/2"	1/2"	1/2"	3/4"
	200	1"	8.0	1"	1/2"	1/2"	1/2"	3/4"
40'	200	1"	9.3	1"	1/2"	1/2"	1/2"	3/4"
	250	1"	10.2	1"	1/2"	1/2"	1/2"	3/4"
	300	1"	11.1	1"	3/4"	1/2"	1/2"	3/4"
50'	250	1"	11.7	1"	3/4"	1/2"	1/2"	1"
	300	1"	12.6	1"	3/4"	3/4"	1/2"	1"
	400	1"	14.4	1"	3/4"	3/4"	3/4"	1"
60'	250	1"	13.1	1"	3/4"	3/4"	1/2"	1"
	300	1"	14.0	1"	3/4"	3/4"	1/2"	1"
	400	1"	15.8	1"	3/4"	3/4"	3/4"	1"
	500	1"	17.6	1"	3/4"	1"	3/4"	1"
80'	300	1"	16.9	1"	3/4"	1"	1/2"	1 1/4"
	400	1"	18.7	1"	3/4"	1"	3/4"	1 1/4"
	500	1 1/4"	20.5	1 1/4"	3/4"	1"	3/4"	1 1/4"

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ESTIMATE OF ALBERTA'S 1975 FORAGE ACREAGE

Statistics Canada reveals a drastic cut in Alberta's 1975 forage acreage.

Indications are that some three-quarters of a million acres of tame hay and pasture were either broken up last fall or will be broken up this spring for annual crop production and summerfallow. Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, says that farmers should seriously consider re-seeding grass and legumes crops if they want to maintain the province's livestock industry and to conserve soil fertility without having to resort to expensive commercial fertilizer application programs.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Following is a list of recent Alberta Agriculture publications now available from district agriculturists' offices.

FORAGES

- "Varieties of Hay and Pasture Crops for Alberta - 1975"

  This publication deals with the principles of forage crop seeding, seeding rates of legumes and grasses and grass-legume mixtures. It also contains a list of recommended forage varieties for specific soil zones in the province.

- "Cicer Milkvetch for Western Canada"

  This booklet describes the characteristics, range of adaptation and management of cicer milkvetch for forage and seed production. This perennial is very winter hardy, moderately salt tolerant and drought resistant. It can be grown in the black and dark brown soil zones.

- "Fababean Production"

  This brochure explains crop production characteristics such as seeding, weed control and harvesting. This crop attracted interest when it was discovered that it is high in protein and energy, both of which makes it useful as a livestock feed.

- "Fababeans for Farm Animals"

  This brochure explains the use of fababeans in a number of growing and finishing rations for poultry and livestock.

(continued)

Recent Publications (cont'd)

CEREALS AND OILSEED CROPS

- "Varieties of Cereals and Oilseeds for Alberta - 1975"

  This publication provides information on various cereal and oilseed production areas in the province and compares various cereal and oilseed varieties from the point of view of yield, maturity and resistance to disease.

- "Guide to Corn Production in Alberta"

  This publication, prepared by the Alberta Corn Committee, lists various corn varieties that can be successfully grown for grain or silage in specific areas of the province. It also covers other aspects of corn production such as seeding, cultural practices, irrigation requirements, fertilizing and weed control.

WEED AND INSECT CONTROL

The following list of publications deal with the control of specific weeds and insects in specific crops.

- "Chemical Weed Control in Cereal and Oilseed Crops"
- "Chemical Weed Control in Forage Crops"
- "Quackgrass Control
- "Control of Field Crops Insects"

SHELTERBELTS

- "Hedges for the Prairies"

(continued)

Recent Publications (cont'd)

GENERAL

- "Farming Acid Soils"

  This publication describes methods to correct soil acidity and the factors to consider when applying lime to improve soil acid levels.

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SUPPLEMENTAL LAND USE FORUM HEARINGS

Albertans who still want to appear before the Land Use Forum can do so in May. Supplemental hearings have been arranged for Tuesday, May 13, in Edmonton's Jubilee Auditorium and for Thursday, May 15, in Calgary's Jubilee Auditorium.

The additional hearings follow eight weeks of public hearings at 15 Alberta centres during which 214 briefs were presented. To date there have also been 25 briefs submitted directly to the Land Use Forum office.

During the latter half of 1974, 246 briefs were received from individuals and organizations through a series of public meetings. These were conducted by a private organization on the forum's behalf in over 75 Alberta communities.

Speaking for the three forum members, Chairman Dr. V. A. Wood said that they were gratified by the response to a number of land use issues. "It is obvious", he said, "that many people realize how important land is to us all".

Commenting on the additional hearings in May, Dr. Wood said that anyone who missed the earlier opportunity to present a brief and still wished to do so, should contact the forum as soon as possible. (The office is located in the Petroleum Plaza, North Tower, 9945 - 108 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2G6. Telephone 427-4367)

(continued)

Supplemental Land Use Forum Hearings (cont'd)

Dr. Wood also indicated that during the forthcoming hearings in Edmonton and Calgary, anyone wishing to freely express his opinions on any land use issue will be given the opportunity.

At the request of the provincial government the Alberta Land Use Forum was established to make a report to the government after hearing the views of Albertans regarding land use. All briefs or submissions will be considered before the forum makes its final report.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO RAPE YIELD CONTESTS OPEN IN ALBERTA

Elanco, makers of Treflan weed killer, is again sponsoring the Rape Yield 30 Contest.

Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of cereal and oilseed crops, Sherman Yelland, reports that the Elanco contest is being 'enriched' this year by the addition of a new 'dimension'. The Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association will be awarding Bulova Accutron watches and model 2200 Winchester shotguns to the growers with the highest yields in each of six regions of the province and a trip for two to Japan to one of these six finalists. The winner of the trip will be determined through a draw.

To enter the Elanco and Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association's contest, both of which will be awarding watches and trips for two to Japan, a rapeseed grower should enroll with his elevator agent and aim for a 30 bushels per acre yield on 40 acres of land. The elevator agent also qualifies for a chance to win a watch or a trip for two to Japan.

Rapeseed growers who are interested in entering the contest can get a copy of Elanco's "Oilseed Advocate", a series of descriptions on successful cultural practices by last year's 30 bushel and over per acre rape growers, from their elevator agent or district agriculturists. Elevator agents and district agriculturists also have copies of the contest regulations.

(continued)

Two Rape Yield Contests Open in Alberta (cont'd)

In a nut shell, the prerequisites of successful rapeseed cultural practices are a soil test, the use of fertilizers, a firm, moist, but not too fine, seed bed, early seeding, use of weed control chemicals, early swathing and careful combining and storage. Now that both low and high erucic acid rape types are being grown, care is essential during handling to prevent the two types from getting mixed.

"We'll be surprised", Mr. Yelland says, "if 8,000 Alberta rape growers do not try for 30 plus bushels per acre on at least 40 acres".

Growers who enter the contest could be double winners -- they could win increased yields in addition to the handsome prizes being offered by Elanco and the Alberta Rapeseed Growers' Association.

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AGRI NEWS

CANADIANA

May 12, 1975

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AGRI NEWS

Agdex: 657

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVALUATION OF ALBERTA'S BLACKFLY CONTROL PROGRAM

How effective is the Alberta Government's blackfly research program in Athabasca?

Although blackfly control research and livestock protection has been going on in Alberta, and in Canada as a whole, for decades, a concentrated multi-disiplinary approach to the problem was not initiated until 1973. It was felt at that time that a two-pronged program was necessary to solve the problem. One part was to be aimed at controlling Simulium arcticum, the main problem blackfly species, with an insecticide at its breeding site in the Athabasca River. The other part would be to protect farm livestock in the area by such practices as providing them with shelter and through the use of self-administered insecticides and repellants.

The program's goal, established by Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge and agreed upon by the Alberta Blackfly Co-ordinating Committee (ABCC), was to have a fully developed, practical method of reducing Simulium arcticum infections and associated pests by 1977. Formed in 1973, the ABCC is made up of representatives from Agriculture Canada, Alberta Agriculture, Environment Canada, Alberta Environment, Alberta Fish and Wildlife, the University of Alberta, a municipal official and one provincial M. P. Some of the committee members, plus scientists from various organizations, make up the Blackfly Research Team.

(continued)

RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Evaluation of Alberta's Blackfly Control Program (cont'd)

Although analysis of the 1974 program was incomplete when the research team met early this spring, sufficient preliminary information was available to indicate progress towards the objectives.

. The initial treatment of the experimental section of the Athabasca River with a 0.3 ppm concentration of methoxychlor for 15 minutes reduced the blackfly population by percentages ranging from 60 per cent at 3.1 miles below the injection site at the town of Athabasca to nearly 100 per cent 100 miles down stream.

. A potential outbreak was reduced in the adjacent farming area to the point where adult blackfly populations were slightly below those observed in 1973, a non-outbreak year.

. The pesticidal treatment was followed by a dramatic reduction in the population of most non-target invertebrates from Athabasca to Fort McMurray, a distance of more than 200 miles. Two sampling methods showed there was little repopulation within three weeks. Another sampling method showed that recovery of non-target organisms was complete in the first 100 miles of the treated river within three months.

. No pathology associated with the toxicity of the methoxychlor river treatment was detected in experiments with caged or wild fish.

. Analysis of fish tissue to date indicates negligible uptake of methoxychlor in species other than the flat-headed chub.

(continued)

Evaluation of Alberta's Blackfly Control Program (cont'd)

. Livestock protection through the use of shelters and self-treating pesticide applicators resulted in significantly higher livestock. productivity during the peak period of non-outbreak blackfly densities.

Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, reports that on the basis of last year's results, the ABCC has recommended that another experimental treatment of the Athabasca River be carried out this summer. However, the amount of insecticide used will be reduced to determine the effectiveness of a lower concentration of methoxychlor on blackfly larvae and non-target invertebrates. Mr. Dolinski says decisions will be made regarding future research and the acceptability of river treatment as a means of blackfly control after this year's program results have been analyzed.

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Agdex 410/82

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEY UTILIZATION IN ALBERTA

Are we in Alberta making the most profitable use of whey? Or is a considerable quantity of this valuable commodity being wasted?

Dr. J. A. Newell, Alberta Agriculture's regional swine specialist at Lethbridge, reports that more than 50 per cent of the whey produced in the province each year is either disposed of as waste water or sprayed on the land. This volume represents about 33,000,000 pounds (16,500 tons) of liquid whey or 297,000 pounds (148 tons) of protein. An average cost of $200 for a ton of 40 per cent concentrate, it is worth about 25¢ per pound of protein for a potential revenue of $74,250. "If we were able to feed this quantity of liquid whey to growing finishing pigs, we would be able to feed approximately 15,000 pigs from 100 to 200 pounds liveweight", Dr. Newell says.

He also points out that the volume of whey that is treated as waste is rapidly becoming a pollution problem. When one considers that 100 pounds of whey is equivalent to the waste produced by 21 people in a day, a treatment plant the size of that required for a city of 6,300 people would be needed to treat the waste coming from a cheese plant that produces 30,000 pounds of cheese per day. The average cheese plant in Alberta produces this volume of cheese.

(continued)

Whey Utilization In Alberta (cont'd)

Dr. Newell reports that most of the cheese plant managers they interviewed agreed that whey is a nuisance and that it creates a disposal problem. "They showed great interest", he says, "in obtaining more information on possible uses of whey".

Samples of whey collected at the cheese plants were analyzed for their nutritional content. Results are shown below.

COMPOSITION OF WHEY

	MOISTURE	% PROTEIN	CA	P
CHEDDAR	94.93	.916	.047	.044
QUARK	95.86	.844	.123	.070
CAMEMBERT	95.35	.835	.047	.047
MOZARELLA	95.07	.857	.047	.045

When used as a fertilizer, one ton of whey will provide 3 pounds of nitrogen, 0.75 pounds of phosphorus and 3.5 pounds of potassium, plus sodium chloride, magnesium, and calcium. In addition to improving the soil tilth, it increases water infiltration and reduces soil erosion because of better aggregation. Dr. Newell says maximum crop response was obtained when whey was used on a non-legume crop like corn or grass. The suggested rate is between 100,000 and 200,000 pounds per acre.

(continued)

Whey Utilization In Alberta (cont'd)

The volume of dry whey used in the province is very small. Dr. Newell points out that a cheese plant would have to produce about 100,000 pounds of whey a day to justify the high cost of drying equipment. Transportation is another problem. Since whey is 93 per cent water, it is extremely bulky to move. Condensing the whey to 40-50 per cent solids is another alternative, but again the drying equipment would be a costly factor.

According to Dr. Newell, more than 30 per cent of Alberta's whey production is fed to swine and he believes that more could be used for this purpose if accurate information on its handling and feeding were available.

"We visited most of the hog producers who are feeding whey", he says, "and found that some of them are mixing it with dry rations and feeding it as a slurry, while others are feeding it as a liquid to supplement regular dry rations. Still others feed it through the watering system and provide the dry ration in a self-feeder. All the producers we talked to said that more information is needed on the handling and feeding of whey.

"We are setting up a research project, in conjunction with the Engineering Branch, which will terminate this summer. At that time we hope we will have obtained some concrete guidelines on the most efficient way of handling and feeding whey."

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AGRI NEWS

Agdex 649

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIELD MARKERS FOR BOOM SPRAYING

A new field marker that eliminates over-lapping and missed strips in field fertilizer and pesticide applications has been developed by a firm in Iowa, U.S.A.

The marker, which costs between $480 and $580, depending upon whether you want one or two foam nozzles, lays down a dense white ball of foam every four to six seconds. Almost a foot in diameter, the size of the ball is reported to keep it from blowing away. These balls are also reported to be highly visable on all types of terrain and in poor lighting. In fact the manufacturer claims that the balls make spraying possible in limited lighting such as in the early morning and late evening.

The foam balls remain intact from 10 minutes to several hours, depending upon atmospheric conditions. They disappear gradually into the ground without harming crops or soil.

The marker can be attached to any type of boom sprayer within minutes and the cost of the foam per acre is reported to be in the range of 2¢ to 5¢ an acre.

Terry Footz of Alberta Agriculture's Plant Industry Division says this system of marking almost eliminates the possibility of missed strips when spraying is being done with a long boom.

Further information on the marker can be obtained from J. D. Fraser, 731, 10 Avenue S. W., Calgary.

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Agdex 410/840

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKETING COWS

A press release received by Alberta Agriculture from the Canadian Cattlemen's Association strongly advocates that cattlemen, especially dairymen, make every effort to market as many cows as possible in the second and third quarters of the year instead of in the traditional fourth quarter.

During the many years that the association has been charting cow marketings and prices, they have observed that marketings are lowest in the second and third quarters and that prices are highest at those times. The fourth quarter is the convenient time to market beef cows because it is at that time that calves are weaned and pregnancy tests are done. However, some heavy marketings also take place in the first quarter of the year.

The tables below show the general relationships of lower marketings and higher prices in the second and third quarters of the year. According to the cattle commission, the exception in the third quarter of 1974 was due to generally bouyant cattle prices in the first quarter, and the long slide in prices that occurred in the third quarter of that year.

(continued)

Marketing Cows (cont'd)

Marketing Trends and Prices for D1-2 Cows

Year	Average price/cwt for the year	1st Quarter Deviation from average	2nd Quarter Deviation from average	3rd Quarter Deviation from average	4th Quarter Deviation from average
1972	$26.40	-$0.84	+$0.44	+$0.61	-$0.25
1973	$34.53	-$3.59	+$0.44	+$3.95	+$0.34
1974*	($29.00)	(+$6.00)	(+$4.50)	(-$1.50)	(-$8.00)

*Estimates - final figures not yet available.

Per Cent of Cow Marketings

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
1972	24.5	23.1	24.1	28.3
1973	26.7	21.2	22.7	29.4
1974	24.7	17.1	21.7	36.5

The cattle commission expects this cyclical trend to be even more marked in 1975 and 1976 because we are at the top of the beef cycle now, and an unprecedented number of beef cows are likely to be marketed in the fourth quarters of both years.

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Agdex 616

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLVING THE CONFLICT BETWEEN BEEKEEPERS AND INSECTICIDE APPLICATORS

COMMUNICATION! That, according to Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of apiculture, is the key to solving the potential conflict that exists between beekeepers and insecticide applicators.

Apiculture supervisor, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, suggests that a central registry be set up in each county and municipal district of the province where beeyards are located and crop spraying is an annual event. "The beekeepers", he says, "could register the locations of their apiaries and insecticide applicators could notify the registry when and where they will be spraying crops". The registry would then be responsible for notifying the beekeepers whose apiaries were likely to be affected so that they could take the necessary precautions.

Dr. Soehngen reports that this system of notification has worked very well in those parts of the world where it has been tried. In his opinion, such a system would go a long way towards defusing a potential conflict between Alberta beekeepers and farmers who have to use insecticides on their crops.

"It is very important", he explains, "that we work out some sort of compromise between beekeepers and farmers who use insecticides before the problem gets out of hand." Dr. Soehngen believes that insecticide use will increase if present trends continue and if the pressure to produce more food continues.

(continued)

Without adequate safeguards, the incidence of accidental bee poisoning from insecticides will also increase, and the resulting conflict between beekeepers and farmers will become increasingly difficult to solve. "It seems to me", Dr. Soehngen says, "that it is much easier to nip this potential problem in the bud than to wait for it to develop into an acute situation".

What can a beekeeper do to protect his bees from insecticide poisoning? If he is given enough advance notice that fields near his beeyard are going to be sprayed, he can confine his bees to their hives by covering the hives with wet burlap bags and, if necessary, leaving them covered for as long as two or three days. Although keeping the burlap wet when a number of beeyards, several miles apart are involved, is no easy task, it can be done if the beekeeper has enough time.

An alternative precaution would be to move the hives to another location, if another location is available,and if the beekeeper has the necessary moving equipment. Even though there is a risk of losing queens when hives are moved early in the season, and it is very difficult to move hives in mid-summer when they contain 100 to 150 pounds of honey, it can be done with adequate notice.

"The more time a beekeeper has to take precautions against insecticides the better, but he must have at least 24 hour notice", Dr. Soehngen says. This is where the central registry would come in.

(continued)

Solving the Conflict Between Beekeepers and Pesticide Applicators (cont'd)

All an insecticide applicator in the area would have to do would be to telephone the registry and say that he plans to spray his crop or crops in a particular area on a specified date. The registry would then notify all beekeepers whose beeyards might be affected.

In the meantime there are a number of things farmers who are going to be spraying their crops with an insecticide this summer can do to help beekeepers in their areas. They can learn as much as possible about the insecticides they will be using from the point of view of bees, and they can follow carefully the suggested precautions regarding time of application in relation to bee flight.

Dr. Soehngen asks farmers to be very careful when disposing of unused insecticides, regardless of whether they are in liquid or dust form, and to be careful about water contamination when they are cleaning their sprayer tanks. He points out that honey bees require a great deal of water, especially early in the season before nectar is available, and that they will get it from any convenient source. These include running water, sloughs, puddles, troughs, barrels etc. If this water happens to be contaminated with an insecticide the result can be disastrous.

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Agdex 400/643

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVOIDING LIVESTOCK LOSSES FROM POISONOUS PLANTS

When serious livestock losses occur from poisonous plants, the problem is usually overgrazing. The number and size of good forage plants decrease, while the number of less palatable and poisonous plants increases.

Tom Seaborn, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Rocky Mountain House, points out that the earliest growing plant species, which include many of the poisonous plants, will be the ones to carry the grazing load on native pastures that are grazed before they are ready for use. "Pastures that are grazed before the forage species have made much growth quickly become overgrazed," he says.

Another dangerous time from the point of view of poisonous plants and livestock is when the animals are moved from one pasture to another. The move disturbs the animals' grazing habits, and they will often eat plants that they would refuse in their home pasture, simply because the plants are easily accessible.

Mr. Seaborn reports that livestock losses from poisonous plants often increase during a drought because the lack of feed forces the animals to eat any plant that is available. He also points out that certain poisonous plants are more abundant in some years than others, and that livestock should be moved from infested areas during the growing season of the plants in those years when they are abundant.

(continued)

Avoiding Livestock Losses From Poisonous Plants (cont'd)

So far pasture management is the only form of poisonous plant control that is widely practised in Western Canada. However, according to Mr. Seaborn, water hemlock and tall larkspur have been eliminated on some ranches and community pastures in Alberta by 'grubbing' them out. "This method", he says, "is not practical with a species like death camas because it is so widely distributed. On the other hand, cultivating and reseeding an infested area to grass or a grass legume mixture has successfully eradicated this species when the soil and climatic conditions are suitable. Although it is often not practical to cultivate an extensive range area for summer pasture, cultivating and reseeding a specific area for spring pasture is usually economical".

Because the native sward is a complex mixture of forages and weeds, and because many herbs and shrubs are valuable forage plants, spraying to control poisonous plants should be restricted to those areas of a pasture that are known to be infested with these species. "A herbicide that is heavy enough to kill pasture weeds will affect the seed setting of native grasses and reduce the number of some palatable broad-leaved plants", Mr. Seaborn says.

Following is a brief description of the four poisonous weeds in Alberta that can cause serious livestock losses.

(continued)

Western Water Hemlock is a rather pale green branching, smooth perennial of the carrot family, that grows two to six feet high. The stems are stout, hollow and jointed and often have purplish spots. The flowers, in umbrella-like heads, are small and white. The plant blooms in June and July but the fruit does not mature until late in the season. It grows in marshy sloughs, meadows, wet areas and along stream banks in grassland and forested areas. Most of the poisonous oil is concentrated in the tuberous roots, but there is enough in the young shoots to cause trouble. Because of the pulling action of their grazing, cattle are more likely to be poisoned by water hemlock than other livestock, but all types are susceptible.

Death Camas is a member of the lily family. Growing eight to sixteen inches high, it is a slender perennial herb with smooth yellowish green, grass-like leaves. It has many creamy-yellow lily-like flowers. Death camas reaches grazing height early in the spring before most of the grasses, and its usual habitat is upland areas and depressions. All parts of the plant are poisonous, expecially the bulbs. Hence, it is particularly dangerous when the soil is wet, and the bulbs are easily pulled out by cattle. Seeds are formed during the latter part of June and early July, after which the plants quickly die back and disappear. Although cattle are sometimes poisoned in the early spring before green grass is available, it is sheep that are most frequently poisoned.

(continued)

Avoiding Livestock Losses From Poisonous Plants (cont'd)

Arrow Grass is an erect rush-like, or grass-like perennial marsh herb that grows six to thirty inches tall. The flowers are small and greenish in color. They cluster along spike-like flower stalks. The seed pods are three-sided and about a quarter of an inch long. This plant is common in salt marshes and alkaline sloughs. It grows among rushes, sedges and slough grasses. Both the green forage and hay are toxic, but the hay gradually loses its toxicity. Cattle are most often poisoned by arrow-grass, but sheep are also susceptible.

Tall Larkspur is a member of the buttercup family. It is a tall stately perennial which grows from two to six feet high. The leaves are toothed, deeply cleft in three to five main lobes. The flowers are pale blue to purplish and have a characteristic spur. It is common in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and grows in moist areas and on hillsides at higher elevations. Cattle are most often poisoned by this plant, but sheep are also susceptible.

Agdex 641

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRETCHING YOUR HERBICIDES

Here are some ways you can stretch your herbicides.

"Greater reliance on herbicides and possible increases in crop acreages are reported to be creating shortages of some herbicides," says Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's Weed Control Branch, "but the overall situation could be improved by making better use of herbicide supplies".

. Match your herbicide to the job

Choose the right herbicide for the problem weed. In other words, if it is green foxtail, don't expect 2,4-D to kill it, and keep your MCPA for use on crops which might be injured by 2,4-D.

. Apply your herbicides properly

Maintain your sprayer properly, calibrate it properly and use it properly. By doing these three things you will go a long way towards getting the most effective results from your herbicides.

. Avoid over-killing weeds

Don't use two herbicides if one will resolve your weed problem, and don't use eight ounces per acre if four is enough to do the job effectively.

. Treat only the rows in special crops

Consider spraying only the rows in vegetable and other special crops and cultivating between the rows.

. Use a cultivator

Use a cultivator to aid the action of herbicides.

(continued)

Stretching Your Herbicides (cont'd)

- Favor crop growth

Plant good seed in a fertile, well-prepared seed bed and provide timely weed control. Channeling all possible life-supporting factors into crop growth, rather than weed growth, is one of the best ways to control weeds.

- Practice weed control on a long term basis

Use a little extra care to control a new or troublesome weed. This practice will usually save time and money in the long run. Weeds that produce seeds today may create your weed problem over the next 10 years.

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AGRI NEWS

Agdex 275

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUYING TREES

If you are planning to plant a new tree or shrub, now is the time to buy it.

Herman Oosterhuis, in charge of Alberta Agriculture's tree planting programs, recommends planting trees and shrubs now because they are still dormant, moisture conditions are good and the transplant has the whole growing season in which to establish a good root system.

However, before you go out to buy your tree, decide what size you want it to be when it is fully grown. Then, make sure that the one you choose will be that size. The "Alberta Horticultural Guide", available from Alberta Agriculture, outlines the height and 'spread' of all trees and shrubs recommended for this province.

If you find that the tree or shrub that you have chosen at a garden outlet is not listed in the horticultural guide, you are likely to be disappointed in its performance in this climate.

When choosing a tree or shrub at this time of year, you should try to choose one that is still in the bud stage. It will adapt better to transplanting than a specimen which has already leafed out. However, since many trees and shrubs are now being sold in containers, the fact that the one you have chosen has started to leaf out is not nearly as critical as it would be if it had bare roots. Mr. Oosterhuis warns against buying bare-rooted trees or shrubs after June 1.

(continued)

Buying Trees (cont'd)

After checking with a leading Edmonton tree nursery, he says that there has been about a 30 per cent increase in the price of trees and shrubs this year compared with last year's prices. He found that the decidious specimens (those that lose their leaves) are generally in good supply except for species like clump birch (several stems) clump mountain ash, fruiting crabapple and apple trees and larger-sized Mayday trees. The supply of Colorado blue spruce over four feet tall also seems to be short, but there appears to be plenty of junipers and cedars available.

Mr. Oosterhuis reports that some of the locally grown junipers have suffered from sunscalding. Although some of the foliage may have turned brown, the vigour of the shrubs is very unlikely to have been affected.

According to Mr. Oosterhuis, many of the low growing evergreens, like junipers and cedars being sold in Alberta were propagated in western British Columbia, California or Minesota. He says there should be no problems with their performance in this climate, providing the variety is one of those listed in the horticultural guide.

The "Alberta Horticultural Guide" can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T5K 2C8

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Agdex 440/846

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA'S FIRST ANNUAL PORK CONGRESS

"Expanding Alberta's Pork Industry" is the theme chosen for Alberta's first annual Pork Congress to be held at the exhibition grounds in Red Deer on June 18 - 21, 1975.

In announcing the congress, Marvin Moore, Alberta's new minister of agriculture said he is anxious to involve all segments of the pork industy "including that very vital element, the consumer"! He pointed out that the congress comes at a very critical time in the history of hog production in Alberta.

"We are particularly concerned with our declining hog production," he said. "If allowed to continue, it could have a widespread effect on our packing industry, our export markets and our whole economy. We realize that Alberta farmers have some very attractive alternatives these days, but we intend to do everything possible to support and expand our pork industry. For this reason, I urge as many breeders as possible to take part in the competitions and to attend the congress in Red Deer."

The congress is being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture with the support of the Alberta Hog Marketing Board, various breed associations, packers, processors and feed and equipment suppliers.

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AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT PATHOLOGIST APPOINTED TO RESEARCH CENTER

Dr. George Collin, director of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, has announced the appointment of Dr. Ronald Howard to the position of plant pathologist at the center.

Dr. Howard will be responsible for the plant disease diagnostic laboratory which serves the agricultural industry in southern Alberta. He will also carry out greenhouse and field research on plant diseases and advise the research center's personnel and vegetable growers on control practices.

Dr. Howard comes from Saskatchewan and received his B.S.A. from the University of Saskatchewan in 1969. He obtained his M.Sc. from the same university in 1971, and recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a Ph.D. in plant pathology.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST FOR SANGUDO OFFICE ANNOUNCED

John Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's Extension Division, has announced the appointment of district home economist Elaine Breadon to the Sangudo office.

Miss Breadon grew up on a mixed farm in the Picardville area, south of Westlock. She was very active in the 4-H clothing club in her area, holding the positions of treasurer, secretary, and president. She was also active in local Red Cross work.

Miss Breadon graduated from the University of Alberta last year with a B.Sc. (home economics). Her university program included courses in rural extension, the sociology of poverty and retail marketing as well as all the required courses on food and nutrition, housing, family living and economics.

She joined Alberta Agriculture last June and was in training at Fairview until her present appointment.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST AT CORONATION APPOINTED

John Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's Extension Division, has announced the appointment of Sherri Hood to the position of district home economist at Coronation. Until now that area has been served by the district home economist at Stettler.

Miss Hood grew up on a mixed farm near Edam, Saskatchewan, and was a member of the 4-H beef club in that area for 10 years. She became director of the Saskatchewan 4-H Council in 1971 and was voted Saskatchewan Shorthorn Lassie Queen the same year.

Miss Hood has a B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Saskatchewan, having graduated in May 1974. While at university she was a constitution representative on the Home Economics Student Council.

During the summer of 1973 she was an assistant home economist with the Saskatchewan Pork Council and taught home economics in a Saskatchewan school for a brief period the following summer. She then joined Alberta Agriculture and has been in training at Rimbery until her present appointment.

This summer Miss Hood will be talking on radio, taking part in open line radio programs, appearing on television and doing 'in-store' demonstrations on behalf of Agri-Prom at the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton's Klondike days. Agri-Prom is a government and industry sponsored non-profit organization dedicated to promoting Alberta-grown products on a year-round basis.

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AGRI NEWS

May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RELEASED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH ALBERTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

May 19, 1975

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ULTRA-MODERN FOOD PROCESSING PLANT OPENS

Alberta's food processing industry took a major step forward with the recent opening of Com-Pak Foods Ltd. at Lethbridge.

The opening ceremony was attended by approximately 500 guests, representing federal, provincial and civic governments and members of the Lethbridge business community. Because the project was launched about a year ago under Alberta's former minister of agriculture, the Hon. Hugh Horner, he and Alberta Senator Earl Hastings participated in the ceremony. Dr. Horner unfurled the Alberta flag, while Senator Hastings unfurled the Canadian flag. The president of Com-Pak Foods, Boyd Tucker, unveiled a plaque commemorating the official opening.

Com-Pak Foods has been described as the most modern food processing plant in North America. When in full production it is expected to process 12 million pounds a year of Alberta meat and vegetables for the hotel, restaurant and institutional trade. It has the most up-to-date mixing, cooking and freezing facilities on this continent and initially will process 26 entree items.

Com-Pak Foods uses a sophisticated cryogenic system to quick-freeze its products, all of which have been tested for consumer acceptance, shelf-life stability, freeze-thaw stability, and re-heating quality factors. They have also been bacteriologically analyzed for conformance to the required specifications.

(continued)

Ultra-Modern Food Processing Plant Opens (cont'd)

The products, known as 'Easy Entrees', are put up in heavy aluminum trays all ready to be heated in convection or micro-wave ovens. They include Alberta roast beef, pork, and lamb, poultry, meat balls, stews, cabbage rolls and many other dishes.

The market provided by an ultra-modern plant of this size will help to stabilize the demand for Alberta primary agricultural products. Initially, they will be sold only in Alberta, but market feasibility studies indicate that there is a very good potential market in the other western provinces and in the north-western United States.

The Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board, seeing the potential of a company like Com-Pak Foods, arranged for their growers to form a company called Com-Pak Holdings Ltd., with the objective of obtaining an equity in Com-Pak Foods Ltd. The idea was to give the vegetable growers the maximum benefits from their work, a concept which is consistent with the governments philosophy that primary producers in this province should get the greatest possible returns from their resources.

Com-Pak Foods, representing a $2.5 million investment, received federal financial assistance through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and guaranteed loans from the Alberta Opportunity Company and the Agricultural Development Corporation.

(continued)

Ultra-Modern Food Processing Plant Opens (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture's Marketing Division carried out feasibility and marketing studies in addition to providing laboratory facilities for testing the products at the various stages of their development.

When in full production Com-Pak Foods Ltd. will employ about 40 people and will, undoubtedly, strengthen and diversify Alberta's economic base. It is also expected to have a 'multiplying effect' in that it will encourage other firms in the province to become involved in the food processing industry.

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AGDEX: 420/665

May 19, 1975

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIBRIOSIS IN CATTLE

With the cattle breeding season fast approaching, it is time to think about the factors that affect maximum conception in a breeding herd.

One of these is vibriosis, an infectious venereal disease that can drastically reduce next year's calf crop and which is prevalent in Western Canada. It causes both infertility and abortions.

"Vibriosis," Alberta Agriculture's veterinarian, Frank Baker, says, "is caused by a bacterium, *Vibrio fetus*." Although vibriosis is most likely to occur with natural breeding, it can occur with artificial insemination. Even farmers who use disease-free seman run a risk of vibriosis being introduced into the herd through the use of 'cover-up' bulls and through a neighbor's bull breaking into the breeding pasture. Another possible source of infection are 'teaser' bulls used for heat detection.

A cow that contracts vibriosis during breeding will usually abort her calf in the early stages of its development. Since many abortions at this stage usually go unnoticed, it is not until a large percentage of open cows are detected in the fall that the disease is suspected. However, abortions in the later stages of gestation may occur.

According to Dr. Baker, typical histories of infected herds show a pregnancy rate of 40 to 70 per cent and a prolonged calving period.

(continued)

Vibriosis in Cattle (cont'd)

"In a herd where the disease has recently been introduced the conception rate may be as low as 20 per cent," he says. "However, after a sexual rest of from 30 to 90 days, cows will usually recover and conceive."

Bulls become infected while breeding an infected female and may become permanent or temporary carriers. Although vibriosis does not affect the bull, the bacteria remain on the penis and sheath for varying lengths of time and are transmitted to other cows during breeding. Why some bulls become permanent carriers, while others are only temporarily affected is not known. However, age appears to play a part. Dr. Baker reports that during experimental trials it has been found that older bulls seemed to be much more susceptible to permanent infection than younger animals.

The presence of vibriosis is most easily confirmed by isolating the bacteria from an aborted fetus. However, since abortions usually occur in the early stages of gestation, this method of diagnosis is not always possible. In that case, the veterinarian collects cervical mucus for culture or inserts vaginal tampons into a number of cows and submits them for antibody tests.

Although infected cows and bulls can be treated with antibiotics, Dr. Baker says annual vaccination of the breeding herd is the easiest and best method of controlling vibriosis. Replacement heifers should be vaccinated 60 days before they are bred. The annual re-vaccination can be done at any time that is convenient to the herd owner, which, in many cases, will be when the cows are weaned.

AGRI NEWS

May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUATEMALAN CATTLE OBSERVATIONS

"I expect a number of Guatemalan cattle breeders to come to Alberta during the next year to see our cattle and buy some breeding stock", says Alberta Agriculture's livestock commissioner, Sid Lore, who recently spent two weeks in that country.

He was invited through the Alberta Export Agency to judge beef cattle at the Guatemalan Fair, and he spent the following week touring farms and ranches. He reports that Hereford, Angus and Charolais breeds are just becoming established in Guetemala. "The fact that breeders have not had much time to cull their original purchases, plus the fact that nutrition is often inadequate, accounts for the somewhat smaller cattle we saw there compared with the cattle we are used to seeing in Alberta," he says.

Mr. Lore believes that British and other European beef breeds can play a useful role in Guatemala's cross-breeding programs that involve Brahma cattle. "The first generation crosses" he says, "were at least as good as the straight Brahma even though the ones I saw were the offspring of only medium-quality Angus bulls."

There is evidentally a good market in Guatemala for seman from superior beef and dairy sires. Mr. Lore says that the Guatemalan Department of Agriculture asked him to relay a request from them to his government for the services of a technician to study their present beef and dairy situation and its future potential.

(continued)

Guatemalan Livestock Observations (cont'd)

He also says that the management on the farms and ranches he visited ranged from very poor to very good. He believes that the Guatemalans could benefit very much from technical assistance in developing strains of legumes and nitrogen fixing bacteria that would perform in warm soils. "The main problem with the livestock in that country, as I see it," he says, "is one of poor nutrition." Protein is definitely lacking, especially during the dry season. Much of the hay is of such poor quality that it would be impossible for a high producing dairy cow to keep up her production. Protein supplements are very expensive, except where cotton seed is available locally. Even 100 miles of transportation drives the price of protein supplement up to over 5¢ a pound. Corn costs about 8¢ a pound.

According to Mr. Lore, a large percentage of wealthy Guatemalans take their post-secondary education in foreign countries, especially the United States. Since they retain these close ties made during their college days, they purchase most of their livestock from the United States. Mr. Lore believes that it would be worthwhile for Canada to encourage foreign agricultural students to enroll in universities here. "I am quite sure," he says, "that the subsequent trade benefits would make this a very profitable endeavor."

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AGDEX: 100/23

May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

MAGNETIC SEED TREATMENT RESULTS

Magnetic seed treatment trials at the Agriculture Canada research station at Lethbridge have shown improved germination, increased yields and earlier maturity.

For 16 years Urban Pittman, soil science research officer at the station, has been studying the effects of biomagnetism on the growth of agricultural plants. After years of plot tests and co-operative tests with southern Alberta farmers who have large-scale operations, he has found that magnetically treated wheat and barley seed yields from five to 15 per cent more than untreated seed,and that it may mature up to six days earlier.

Mr. Pittman treats the seed by passing it through a magnetic field generated by electromagnets or a set of permanent magnets.

A report received by Alberta Agriculture says that Manitou spring wheat and Galt barley grown from treated seed in 1972 matured three to five days earlier than normal and yielded about 2.6 bushels per acre more than that grown from untreated seed. The following year treated Sundance winter wheat seed and Neepawa spring wheat produced 1.8 and 2.6 bushels per acre (7 and 12 per cent) more than the control seed. Galt barley yields were increased by about 5 bushels per acre (8.5 per cent) when the seed was treated.

(continued)

Magnetic Seed Treatment Results (cont'd)

Treatment of Glenlea, a utility wheat, produced yield increases of 10 to 15 per cent at Lethbridge, the report says, but the increase was about five per cent at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Although there was no increase in the grain yield from magnetically treated corn seed, the seedlings emerged three days earlier than those from untreated seed. There was also evidence that treated corn seed produces more foliage and gives a higher silage yield than untreated seed.

Last year dryland field tests carried out at several places in southern Alberta, showed that in seven out of 10 tests magnetically treated Galt barley seed yielded 1.3 to 12.1 bushels per acre more than that grown from untreated seed. Seed treatment had no effect on yield in two of the tests; and in the other, which was carried out in a very dry area of southeastern Alberta, the barley crop grown from magnetically treated seed yielded less than that grown from untreated seed. The early growth was heavier on the plants grown from the treated seed, but they suffered more severely at heading-out time from the drought than the plants grown from untreated seed. Magnetically treated Betzes barley yielded from 1.1 to 4.1 bushels per acre more than the control in both of the two tests.

(continued)

Magnetic Seed Treatment Results (cont'd)

In five of the eight tests with Neepawa spring wheat, yield increases of 0.9 to 5.1 bushels per acre were obtained as a result of magnetic seed treatment. There were no yield decreases.

Yield increases of 1.2 to 4.5 bushels per acre were obtained in three of four tests with Glenlea treated seed. While the seed treatment had no effect on the yield of Wascana durum in two tests, it increased yields by 1.4 to 2.6 bushels per acre in two others. The average yield increase for Wakooma durum in a single test was 1.3 bushels per acre. Neither oats nor flax grown from magentically treated seed showed any yield increase in last year's tests.

According to the report, barley seed appears to be the most responsive, so far, of the commonly grown crops to magnetic seed treatment. Apart from increased yields, crops from treated seed can usually be expected to mature several days earlier than crops grown from untreated seed.

Mr. Pittman says "Although we have results from only one year of evaluation, it appears that wheat and barley seed may be treated several weeks before being planted. Galt barley and Neepawa wheat grown from seed treated in a commercial treater up to six weeks before being seeded produced yield increases as large as those obtained from seed treated immediately before the seed was planted. Related research shows that Compana barley, after having been magnetically treated and stored in glass jars for 11 years, still produced about 80 per cent more growth in germination tests than similar untreated seed."

(continued)

Magnetic Seed Treatment Results (cont'd)

Mr. Pittman admits that the results from magnetic seed treatment are still somewhat of a mystery, but says that some clues to the puzzle are turning up. "Seeds that have been treated," he explains, "use less oxygen, but grow faster. Also the treated seed gives off less heat and seems to contain more 'reducing sugars' than untreated seed -- a possible reason for faster growth."

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881

May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

LIFE ON A JAPANESE DAIRY FARM

"How happy I am to be a part of this wonderful family and to share the joys of life with them."

This statement was made in a recent letter to Alberta Agriculture from Pat Farris of Andrew Alberta who is spending a year on a Japanese dairy farm in Hokkaido province under the Alberta-Japanese Dairy Exchange Program. Initiated two years ago, this program provides for a two-way exchange between Alberta and Japan of 10 people with dairy farm experience. Participants live and work with the dairy farm family in the host country for from six to 12 months. At the present time there are eight Japanese dairymen working on Alberta dairy farms, and nine more are expected later this year.

Miss Farris continues: "I get up at 5:00 each morning to milk the cows. At present we are milking 42 cows with an Alfa-Laval pipeline unit with four milking machines. Cows are calving every week - the bull calves are auctioned three times a month and the heifers are raised by ourselves.

"I am very happy here with my work. I've been given the responsibility of mastitis treatment and any other treatment for scours or injury that may arise. After machine milking, I strip milk the cows and check once more that there is no sign of mastitis or ketosis.

(continued)

Life on a Japanese Dairy Farm (cont'd)

"These animals are excellently fed, the feed all being purchased with the exception of the hay. A well-balanced diet of corn silage, malted barley, crushed wheat, and all necessary minerals are fed twice a day.

"The heifers and dry cows are in an adjoining barn. We wash and groom all the cattle every second day. I have been busy clipping the heifers of winter hair and the cows' udders.

"There are four other workers here with the odd high-school student working part-time. There are no other girls working in the barn or outside. All of us get along together extremely well and time passes quickly in whatever we may be doing. This harmony is not found too often in our disruptive world today. It gives me a strong feeling that there is still hope for mankind.

"Dairy farming is one of the main fields of Hokkaido agriculture. There were several kinds of dairy cattle introduced in Hokkaido, but now Holsteins are the most predominate with a small Jersey percentage following. All other breeds have almost disappeared.

About 90 per cent of the milk produced is processed at local plants for butter, cheese, dry milk or the like, and the rest is sold on the fresh market.

(continued)

Life on a Japanese Dairy Farm (cont'd)

"A considerable amount of money has been spent on advertising the use of dairy products because the Japanese people consume little of their dairy products. Milk is advertised everywhere with some excellent slogans, which I think would be a good idea for Canadian advertising."

Miss Farris enclosed the following table which shows the amount of fluid milk, butter and cheese consumed per capita in Japan compared with New Zealand and the United States.

	Milk (litre)	Butter (kilogram)	Cheese (kilogram)
New Zealand	205	17.20	4.10
United States	122	2.20	8.40
Japan	29	0.50	.40

AGDEX: 641

May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEED GERMINATION RESEARCH MAY IMPROVE WEED CONTROL

Many weed problems could be eliminated if scientists could exploit a breakthrough in basic research that would explain the workings of key biochemical interactions responsible for seed germination.

Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's Weed Control Branch, reports that at least two USDA scientists are working towards this goal. They are Dr. Raymond Taylorson and Dr. Sterling Hendricks of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

They have been experimenting with a number of compounds, including thiourea, sodium nitrite and hydroxylamine, all of which were previously known to end seed dormancy. In fact, some of their effects have been known since 1939, but no one has ever been able to determine how or why they act on seeds. "Answers found by the ARS scientists now open the way for developing practical methods of manipulating seed germination," Mr. Stearman says.

The scientists have pinned down prominent, but previously unrecognized, developments that take place in the course of seed germination. Although the scientific explanation is very complex, in essence, a compound in the seeds called catalase blocks an essential chain of reactions leading to germination and maintains the seeds in their dormant state. The scientists' test compounds inactivated or neutralized the catalase, allowing germination to take place.

(continued)

Seed Germination Research May Improve Weed Control (cont'd)

The U. S. scientists discovered these facts while working with pigweed and lettuce seeds. If their findings apply to other seeds, their discovery would have wide application, but further research is needed to determine whether the same biochemical interaction occurs in all seeds.

Apparently some corroborative evidence of the significance of these findings is already available, according to the scientists. One of their test compounds is the herbicide potassium azide, which, in laboratory tests, stimulated the germination of seeds from some grass seed species when small amounts of the test compound were applied to the soil. The discovery of the basic mechanism by which azide works to stimulate germination makes field use of this principle very promising.

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May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

GROWING FABABEANS IN ALBERTA

Preliminary estimates show that between 10,000 and 12,000 acres of fababeans will be grown in Alberta this season, which is more than double the acreage grown last year.

Larry Gareau, Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, says that a largeproportion of this year's crop is being grown for silage, and that the amount put up as silage will be particularly large if we get an early fall frost. He also points out that the large increase in this year's acreage is an obvious indication that those who have been growing fababeans in the province over the last three years are well pleased with this crop, and that they appreciate the value of fababeans as a high protein concentrate and as a highly palatable and nutritious forage when used in silage.

According to Mr. Gareau, the importance of good weed control during the seedling stage of this crop cannot be overstressed. Treflan, the only herbicide that is registered for weed control in fababeans at the present time, controls such weeds as wild oats, green foxtail, redroot pigweed, lamb's-quarters, wild buckwheat and Russian thistles. It does not control mustard, ragweed or stinkweed. Treflan can be applied in either the spring or the fall and should be incorporated in two operations, and in two different directions, with a disc-type implement.

Although carbyne has proved successful in controlling wild oats in fababeans during experimental work, anyone planning to use it should first obtain the latest recommendations on application rates.

(continued)

Growing Fababeans in Alberta (cont'd)

Both the coil-spring and the diamond harrow are good implements for post-seeding elimination of annual weeds in 'mellow' soils. This approach is recommended for cases where chemical control measures fail. Harrowing can be done until the bean plants are six inches high and is most effective in warm, dry weather. It should not be done in damp weather or when the dew is on the ground because of the risk of spreading disease.

Mr. Gareau reports that no serious insect damage has been experienced to date in fababean crops grown in Alberta. Although the blister beetle has caused some problems, so far it has not been necessary to take control measures. Grasshoppers and aphids have sometimes caused a small amount of damage.

However, Mr. Gareau advises fababean growers to check their fields regularly during the growing season in case of insect infestations and to report any damage to their district agriculturist.

Further information on fababeans is contained in a publication entitled "Fababean Production", available from district agriculturists and the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

FORAGE SHORTAGE IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, suggests that southern Alberta cattlemen who are short of pasture this spring consider feeding alfalfa pellets or cubes.

He reports that the Alberta Fodder Bank, established two years ago, has about 700 tons of sun-cured alfalfa cubes at Tirol Dehydrators Ltd., Box 25, Tilley, Alberta. The price is $80 a ton and the person to contact is the manager, Alex Chrumka. His telephone number is 377-2227.

Mr. Gareau does not foresee any problems with feeding pellets or cubes providing the cattle are put on to this feed gradually. He suggests starting with five pounds per mature cow per day and gradually increasing this amount, over a period of a week, to 20 pounds per day. Since pellets and cubes are both highly concentrated feed, a hungry animal which had free access to this feed could develop digestive troubles.

A fairly large number of cattlemen in the south of the province are short of forage because of this spring's late snow fall and the unseasonably cool temperatures that prevailed during April and early May. In addition, last year's dry summer and late fall left many pastures and a large proportion of rangeland with no carryover. According to Mr. Gareau, the areas hardest hit are Cardston, Warner, Pincher Creek and Claresholm.

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AGDEX: 400/62

May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI NEWS

MOST RECENT RESEARCH TO BE REPORTED AT FEEDERS' DAY

Have you heard about the new non-protein nitrogen supplement (BNPN) that can be safely used in ruminant rations? This is just one of the many interesting experiments that you will hear discussed at the University of Alberta's 54 annual Feeders' Day, scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 9, at the Edmonton Research Station, 116 Street and 71 Avenue, Edmonton.

You will also hear about two experiments which compared the complementary values of fababeans and low glucosinolate rapeseed meal as protein supplements for growing and finishing pigs. Combinations of fababeans and several other protein sources were also evaluated. Another study concerns the effects of different types of flooring and exercise on the incidence of leg weakness and arthrosis in growing boars. Results obtained from a comparison of the performance of growing pigs fed a standard ration, a least cost ration and low cost diets is one of several other experiments that will be discussed.

Among the reports to be given in the ruminant section of the program are "Fababeans Versus Rapeseed Meal and Urea as Supplemental Protein for Dairy Calves", "Goitrogenic Effect of Milk from Cows Fed Rapeseed Meal", "The Effect of Exposure to Cold on the Digestive Function in Sheep" and "The Influence of Maturity-Type in Bulls on Patterns of Carcass Development During Growth".

(continued)

Most Recent Research to be Reported at Feeders' Day (cont'd)

You will also hear a report on the University of Alberta's Beef Breeding Project at Kinsella where the performance of a 'synthetic' beef herd, established from a hybrid base of Charolais, Angus and Galloway, and a 'synthetic' dairy herd combining Holstein and Brown Swiss and contributions from several other breeds, will be compared with the performance of the Hereford control herd.

A new area of research that will be reported on this year concerns the potential productivity of wildlife on native grazing systems in the boreal forest regions of Alberta, and there will also be a special report from the School of Household Economics on cooking the less tender cuts of beef.

A summary of each research project will be published in a special Feeders' Day edition of the University of Alberta's "Agriculture Bulletin". You can arrange to receive this bulletin regularly through the Extension Department, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

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AGDEX: 616

May 19, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MOSQUITO CONTROL AND BEEKEEPERS

While the need to control mosquitoes is almost universally recognized, the method by which this is accomplished is sometimes the subject of debate.

Beekeepers are among those that agree that mosquitoes must be controlled, but the way in which the control is carried out is of greater urgency when bees represent the means by which a man derives at least part and very often all his income.

One of the problems is that honey bees, which require a lot of water, especially early in the season, get it from such sources as sloughs, ponds, marshy areas etc., all of which are the main breeding places for mosquitoes. Also, many of the best sources of pollen and nectar - dandelions in tall, stringy grass and bushes like dogwood and willow - are favorite mosquito haunts.

How can this conflict of interests be reconciled? According to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of Apiculture, as is the case with most problems, there is no ideal solution, but there are things that mosquito control specialists can do to minimize the problem. One of these is to be selective in the insecticides they use - some pose a greater threat to bees than others.

(continued)

Adult Mosquito Control

Both malathion and Dursban are, according to Karl Johansen of the University of Washington, extremely toxic to bees when applied as ultra-low volume sprays. Malathion has a residual effect of around four days, but Dursban, used at mosquito control concentrations, has an extremely short residual life. Consequently, it can be safely used, providing it is applied in the evening, during the night or in the early morning when bees are not flying.

Mosquito Larvae Control

There are two types of larvicides recommended for mosquito control - the spray type and the granular type. From the point of view of bees, the granular larvicides represents the lesser of two evils! When the granules hit a bee, they roll off, doing little damage; while spray droplets stick to the bee and probably kill it.

Other advantages of granules as, opposed to sprays, are that they seem to be more often on target and there is little drift. Hence, bees working the margin of a pond or slough are unlikely to get caught in an unintended crossfire.

(continued)

Mosquito Control and Beekeepers (cont'd)

Although the low concentration of larvicides needed to kill mosquito larvae probably have only a slight effect on bees, Dr. Soehngen says it is conceivable that even a low concentration of an insecticide with a long residual effect could have a disastrous effect on the hive population. Bees frequently concentrate honey sac material through the evaporation of water.

Following is a list of insecticides used to control mosquito larvae and a brief comment on their toxicity to bees.

Malathion is very toxic to bees and the residual effect lasts four days.

Abate has a low toxicity to bees and its residual effect lasts only three hours. Hence, it is safe to use when bees are not foraging.

Dursban is very toxic when the spray hits the bees. However, its residual effect lasts only a day or slightly more, and, at mosquito control concentrations, it is safe to use when bees are not flying.

Methoxychlor is moderately toxic to bees and has a residual effect of one day. It is considered safe to use when bees are not flying.

Baytex, on the other hand, is never safe to use around bees. It has a very high toxicity for bees and its residual effect lasts two to three days.

May 19, 1975

AGRI NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LABORATORY HEAD GOING TO TANZANIA

A member of Alberta Agriculture is going to Tanzania at the end of the month under the Agricultural Institute of Canada's Commonwealth Fellowship Exchange Program, sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

He is Don Laverty, head of the Soils and Feed Testing Laboratory, who will be spending a good part of his five weeks in Tanzania at the Agricultural Research Institute at Lyamungu. The scientists there are carrying out dryland soil fertility research in an effort to improve the management and production of cereals in that country. Some of this research is being funded by CIDA.

Last fall G. G. Myovela, a soil scientist at the Agricultural Research Institute in Tanzania, spent several weeks in Canada visiting university, provincial and federal research stations to obtain first-hand information on our dryland cropping techniques. He also attended the Agricultural Institute of Canada's Convention in Laval, Quebec.

Each year CIDA sponsors a number of exchange fellowships between Canada and other commonwealth countries.

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AGRI·NEWS

May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRI-NEWS

May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOLLOW UP TO "TWINNING" CEREMONY IN KOREA

Five South Koreans arrived in Edmonton on May 26 as a follow-up to the "twinning" ceremony that took place in South Korea last fall between Alberta and Gangweon Province.

They are Jong Seong Bark, governor of Gangweon Province; Eun Jae Yu, director of industry; Ung Chul Young, director of culture and public information; Hyung Bae Kim, director of planning and management; and Woo Dong Yoon, president of Dong Bang V Silk Reeling Co. of Gangweon Province.

After an official government reception on the evening of their arrival, they will spend the three remaining days of their visit touring Edmonton and the surrounding area. Their agenda includes a visit to Alberta's largest coal-burning thermal electric power plant on the north shore of Lake Wabamun, a tour of the federal research station at Lacombe, a tour of the Lamb Processors Co-op Ltd. at Innisfail and a visit to the Alberta Hereford Association Bull Testing Station, also at Innisfail. The South Koreans will also attend a Korean community evening dinner and be entertained at a City of Edmonton banquet.

(continued)

Alberta
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Follow up to "Twinning" Ceremony in Korea (cont'd)

The "twinning" ceremony that took place in the Gangweon Province last September was designed to officially proclaim the "sister relationship" that had been arranged between Alberta and Gangweon Province. It is designed to promote trade between Canada and Korea and to promote the economic well-being of the people of both provinces as well as to facilitate an exchange of technical knowledge and cultural values.

The Koreans are very interested in exchanging technicians, particularly livestock technicians, and in expanding their export markets for textiles, silks and handicrafts.

At the present time there are six South Koreans working on Alberta farms to learn our technologies so that they can introduce them to their own country when they go back after their six-month stay.

Alberta Agriculture is now in the process of assembling spruce and pine seedlings for shipment to Gangweon Province as a good will gesture and to provide Gangweon with a tangible symbol of its "sister relationship" with Alberta.

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AGRI-NEWS

AGDEX $\frac{100}{865}$

May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA GRAIN AND OILSEED PROSPECTS

Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, David Walker, reports that net return prospects for most crops in Alberta appear less favorable than a year ago.

He explains that although the general market price outlook appears similar to that of last year, increases in production costs are likely to mean lower net returns. According to Statistics Canada's March survey of intentions to plant, farmers appear to be less optimistic this year than last year. The intended summerfallow acreage is up five per cent from last year's intended acreage and the only crops for which larger acreages are planned are durum, rye and rapeseed. Mr. Walker says a similar trend is evident across Canada.

In actual fact, however, this year's grain and oilseed production is almost certain to exceed that of last year. Since 1974's appalling seeding conditions are very unlikely to be repeated, this year's seeded acreage will almost certainly be larger than the acreage that was actually planted last year. Present summerfallow intentions are four per cent below last year's actual summerfallow acreage, and good spring precipitation in the drier areas of Alberta, and the Prairies generally, is likely to result in more wheat being planted.

(continued)

Alberta
[illegible]
COMMUNICATIONS

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Alberta Grain and Oilseed Prospects (cont'd)

Wheat

Assuming normal crop conditions during the summer, a Canadian wheat crop (including durums) of between 625 and 650 million bushels appears likely. Earlier this spring the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board, Otto Lang, specified minimum elevator deliveries of 550 million bushels, which after allowance for local feed, seed for the 1976 crop and dockage, suggest that producers will be able to dispose of their total crop during the next crop year.

In view of current projections for a realized price of up to $3 per bushel for top grades of C.W.R.S. wheat, country elevator basis, Mr. Walker expects wheat to gross more than $70 an acre, assuming average yields. This gross return is likely to result in a positive net return in spite of substantial cost of production increases. However, it may be smaller than it has been in the last two years.

Barley

Assuming the whole 1975 crop is sold, street prices of about $1.50 per bushel for barley suggest gross returns of around $60 an acre. However, since domestic feed grain prices are likely to remain above street price levels (based on the Thunder Bay market) for the coming crop year, the total returns from barley is likely to exceed the equivalent of $60 an acre.

(continued)

Alberta Grain and Oilseed Prospects (cont'd)

Rapeseed

If rapeseed prices for the coming year are in the $4 to $4.50 per bushel range, as seems likely, per acre revenue prospects, on the basis of 17 bushels of clean seed per acre, will be similar to those of wheat and barley. Mr. Walker points out that farmers who obtain yields that are substantially above average, can expect considerably more attractive returns.

In summary, on the basis of average yields and anticipated prices, there seems to be little difference in the potential revenue from these three major crops. It is also apparent that, while the 1975-76 crop year may not be as good price-wise as the last two crop years, it will still be a reasonable year from the point of view of income from grain sales, providing that the weather co-operates.

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AGRI·NEWS

AGDEX: 420/41

May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BEEF BULL TESTING PROGRAM RESULTS

Results of the 1974-75 Alberta beef bull testing program at Ellerslie, near Edmonton, show that good daily gains and feed conversion rates can be obtained from a high roughage ration.

The 198 bulls on test, representing 11 different breeds, were fed a ration consisting of 60 per cent hammered hay and 40 per cent grain and a protein supplement for the first 16 weeks of their 24-week test period. Their ration was then changed to 50 per cent hay and 50 per cent concentrate for the remainder of the period.

At the end of the test the average daily gain and feed conversion was only slightly below that obtained in the previous beef bull testing program when the animals were fed 30 per cent hay and 70 per cent concentrate during the whole feeding period.

The following table shows the final average weight, the average daily gain and the average feed conversion for the 11 breeds on test.

(continued)

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Alberta Beef Bull Testing Program Results (cont'd)

	Final Average Weight	Average Daily Gain	Average Feed Conversion
9 Pens of Simmental	1082.44	3.14	8.06
5 Pens of Maine-Anjou	1091.48	3.16	7.93
5 Pens of Charolais	1093.64	3.04	8.15
2 Pens of Synthetic University of Alberta Hybrid	987.60	2.99	8.05
6 Pens of Aberdeen Angus	935.40	2.51	9.02
8 Pens of Hereford	925.39	2.64	8.06
1 Pen of Brown Swiss	1103.80	2.98	9.14
1 Pen of Limousin	914.60	2.54	8.38
1 Pen of Gelbvieh	1085.20	3.23	7.88
1 Pen of Tarentaise	1020.40	3.02	8.27
1 Pen of Shorthorn	923.40	2.56	9.01
	1018.58	2.90	8.24

Chuck Huedepohl, assistant supervisor of Alberta Agriculture's Record of Performance Program, points out that the performance of a single pen of bulls of a particular breed is not necessarily an indication of the relative merit of that breed.

The final tabulation of data on the bulls showed that 60 of them sold for an average price of $757. However, the price ranged all the way from $375 an animal to $3,500 for a two-thirds interest in an animal.

Forty-two bulls were slaughtered and carcass evaluations made. A number of the bull owners were very anxious to have their animals slaughtered so that they could get this carcass data. Twenty-one of the slaughtered bulls graded A1; 18 graded B1; two graded C1; and one graded A3. The rib-eye area ranged from nine square inches to 17.75 square inches and the average fat cover over the rib-eye ranged from 0.07 inches to 0.57 inches. Cutability estimates varied from 55 to 64 per cent.

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May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INCLUSION BODY HEPATITIS IN BROILERS

Inclusion body hepatitis (IBH) is a disease which has assumed increasing economic importance over the last decade in the broiler industry.

According to Dr. John Luther of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary diagnostic laboratory in Lethbridge, IBH was first noted in the United States in 1963. At that time it was considered to be a curious entity, but by 1965 it was recognized as becoming economically significant to the broiler industry. It was first reported in Ontario and Alberta in 1970.

Dr. Luther says the disease can be divided into three phases, each lasting three to five days. During the first phase, dead birds are found in the flock even though no birds appear to be sick. In the second phase, deaths continue, but sick birds are also seen. In the third phase the mortality rate begins to decrease. "As a general rule", says Dr. Luther, "mortality in a flock varies up to about 10 per cent, but it approached 30 per cent in one Alberta flock".

(continued)

Inclusion Body Hepatitis in Broilers (cont'd)

IBH is caused by a virus that affects the liver. Susceptibility among birds seems to vary, depending upon their source. "Although susceptibility to the disease may be attributable to genetic inheritance, it is more likely to be due to a lack of immunity in the chicks", Dr. Luther says.

In this theory it is believed that susceptible chicks come from hens which have never been exposed to the IBH virus. Since these hens do not impart any immunity to their offspring, the latter develop the disease when they are exposed to the IBH virus, which is thought to be fairly wide spread in the poultry population.

Another unproved theory suggests that the virus spreads slowly through a breeder flock, and that it is transmitted through the ovaries of currently infected birds. In this theory it is believed that hens which have had the disease in the past will impart immunity to their offspring, while those that are currently carrying the virus will infect their offspring. If this theory is correct, infected chicks will pass on the virus, but those with immunity will not be affected.

Since there would be a wide variation in the immunity of chicks that come from different sources, variations in the incidence of IBH could be expected in a broiler barn. However, Dr. Luther points out that it is very possible that transmission of the disease from one chick to another may not play any role in the disease. Its incidence may simply be a case of susceptible chicks being placed in a contaminated environment.

(continued)

"Further research", he says, "will involve growing the virus in a laboratory so that a system for its predictable growth can be developed. Then its spread and transmission can be studied with the aim of finding out whether or not it is transmitted through the egg or from one bird to another and whether the virus can survive in buildings, litter, the air, etc; or in other species, birds, insects and so on. When these questions have been answered, some type of control may be initiated. It could take the form of vaccination".

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May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE RAPESEED VARIETIES DROPPED

Alberta Agriculture fully supports Agriculture Canada's decision to disallow the sale of seed of three rape varieties - Arlo, Echo and Polar.

The seed of Arlo, Echo and Polar is being taken off the market because these varieties all produce rapeseed with intermediate levels of erucic acid for which there is no longer a market.

There are two distinct markets for Canadian rapeseed. The main one is the edible oil trade which takes only rapeseed with a low erucic acid content. The other smaller market takes only rapeseed with a very high erucic acid content (40 per cent and over). It is used for industrial oils.

Alberta Agriculture recommends that only Polish rapeseed with an erucic acid content below 3.8 per cent be sown except in those cases where a farmer has a contract for high erucic acid rapeseed. Argentine type rapeseed, planted at this late date, stands a good chance of being frozen next fall.

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May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH FLYING BEES

Honeybees are not usually found cruising at an altitude of 35,000 feet, but recently nearly two million bees were doing just that!

They were package bees on their way from Mexico City to Edmonton where they were distributed to beekeepers throughout Alberta. Provincial apiarist, Dr. Ulf Soehngen, reports that several attempts had been made earlier this spring to bring bees to Alberta from Mexico and that this was the most successful operation. Although the bees in the earlier shipments usually arrived at the Mexico City Airport in good condition, many of the packaged (caged) bees as well as a number of queens failed to survive the journey. Why?

According to Dr. Soehngen, high temperatures in the hold of the aircraft appear to be one of the main causes of mortality. He reports that on the earlier trips many of the cages arrived in Edmonton with the feed cans empty and with most, if not all, the bees on the bottom of their cages, stuck together with the regurgitated contents of their honey sacs.

(continued)

High Flying Bees (cont'd)

"We concluded," he says, "that the bees, in trying to counteract the high temperature in the hold, had attempted to evaporate water from the contents of their honey sacs, as they do in the hive, and that, while doing this, they had regurgitated most of the syrup over each other."

The substitution of water for sugar syrup in the feed cans seemed to help the situation somewhat, but was not the solution.

"Lacking accurate data," says Dr. Soehngen, "we discovered by trial and error that the temperature in the hold of aircraft (passenger planes) is not thermostatically controlled. It is kept only from falling below 7°C. Through the use of recording thermometers in various places in the hold, we found that the temperature of a so-called 'cold' hold often rose to as high as 32°C as a result of the heat generated by the bees. We also found that by not stacking the packages higher than two layers, so that there was an unimpeded air space above them, we were able to keep the temperature down and reduce bee mortality to a minimum.

"In addition, the cluster size seemed to influence the survival rate of the bees. In the last shipment we transported the bees in two pound packages instead of four pound packages, as we had been doing, and we had no losses. A two-pound package may well be the optimum size for air transportation. However, this theory will have to be tested several more times before any definite conclusions can be drawn.

(continued)

High Flying Bees (cont'd)

"It seems that we are now well on our way to solving our air transportation problem thanks, in no small way, to the Alberta Honey Producers' Co-operative, and especially to Paul Pawlowski, who, with the members of the co-operative, has and is continuing to give us his whole-hearted co-operation and support in this venture.

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May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURE WEEK 1975

The Honourable Marvin E. Moore, Minister of Agriculture, has designated October 6 to 10 as Agriculture Week 1975.

Agriculture Week is held annually in Alberta to promote awareness of the importance of agriculture-related industry in the province. Farmers ranchers, processors, and retailers, as well as government and university, sponsor the yearly event.

"One out of every two Albertans in the work force is employed in an agriculture-related industry," says Mr. Moore.

More than half Alberta's gross provincial product is directly or indirectly based on agricultural production. Grains, meat, vegetables, honey and other food products are produced by Alberta farmers and ranchers for consumption in Alberta, other provinces, and foreign nations. With only eight per cent of Canada's population, Alberta produces more than 20 per cent of the country's food supply.

"Agriculture Week is designed to create public understanding of the relationship between all aspects of agriculture," says Mr. Moore.

City-dwellers may not realize the connection between a dairy herd and a block of cheese, or between a field of wheat and a plate of spaghetti.

Wheat, for example, passes through stages of milling, baking, packaging, and marketing before it reaches the home as a loaf of bread. However, not every Albertan recognizes the importance of the processing, transportation, and marketing industries, along with the original production.

(continued)

Agriculture Week 1975 (cont'd)

Agriculture Week activities include school visits, food-store promotions, media coverage, speakers and the distribution of printed information.

The Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame, to which several Albertans are nominated annually for their contributions to agriculture, marks the beginning of Agriculture Week 1975. Each year, several Albertans are named to the Hall of Fame in recognition of their contribution to agriculture.

Schools and organizations are encouraged to take part in Agriculture Week programs.

For further information on Agriculture Week 1975, contact John Andrew at 1B, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8; or phone 427-2127.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR ALBERTA PORK CONGRESS

The Alberta Pork Congress, scheduled to be held in Red Deer from June 18-21, promises to be a great success if the number of entries is anything to go by.

All four western provinces are represented by the 27 breeders who are exhibiting. They include two participants each from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The following table shows the breeds that will be represented at the congress and the number of animals that have been entered in each breed.

Yorkshire:	17 boars	14 gilts
Lacombe:	10 boars	7 gilts
Landrace:	5 boars	5 gilts
Hampshire:	4 boars	4 gilts
Duroc:	2 boars	1 gilt
Crossbred:	1 boar	2 gilts

In the market section there are 42 barrows in the individual barrow class and 15 groups of five in the group class.

All the animals in the breeding stock display will be sold by auction at the end of the congress. The pigs in the market classes will be slaughtered after they have been judged and a comparison will be made between their live scores and their carcass scores. More than $1,000 will be awarded in prize money in this section of the show, and the prize-winning carcasses will be sold by public auction.

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May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA PORK SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS PUBLISHED

Copies of the 1975 Alberta Pork Seminar Proceedings are now available from the University of Alberta.

Among the well-known authorities who presented papers at the seminar, which was held in Banff early this year, were Dr. Charles Deyoe, Kansas State University; Harry-Jae Elder, chairman, Saskatchewan Hog Marketing Commission; Sheila McFadyen, Food Prices Review Board, Ottawa; and J. H. Hanna, assistant deputy minister of Marketing, Alberta Agriculture.

Topics included "Consumer Education and Concerns"; "Processing for the Institutional, Retail and Export Trades"; "Views on Stability Programs from Government, Industry and the Producer"; "Concerns of the Restaurant, Retail and Industrial Catering Trades"; "Feed Handling Systems"; and "Feed Manufacturers' Views on Pork Production".

Copies of the publication can be obtained from the University of Alberta Bookstore, Students' Union Building, 114 Street and 89 Avenue, Edmonton. The charge is $5 per copy.

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May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MANAGEMENT BRANCH APPOINTMENTS

Mel A. Cameron, director of Alberta Agriculture's market intelligence division, has announced three recent appointments to the farm management branch. They are: J. Wilson Loree, appointed to the position of branch head, Philip Jensen, promoted to supervisor of farm records and analysis, and Len Fullen, who joined the branch as agricultural economist.

As branch head, Wilson Loree will be responsible for supervising the development and implementation of effective farm management programs, and for providing reference information and packages for those using or teaching such programs. His branch also offers in-service training and support to regional and district staff in the area of farm management and gives administrative help to programs such as Canfarm.

Mr. Loree was raised at Parkland, Alberta, about sixty miles southeast of Calgary. In 1966 he graduated from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, with a B.Sc. in agriculture, majoring in economics and animal science. After farming for a year and a half, Mr. Loree began work on his M.Sc. in agricultural economics. From 1969 to 1971 he worked as academic assistant in the economics department of the University of Lethbridge, and in 1971 received his M.Sc. from the University of Alberta. In July of that year he became Alberta Agriculture's regional economist in Calgary, a position he held until his recent appointment as branch head.

(continued)

Farm Management Branch Appointments (cont'd)

In his new role as supervisor of the farm management branch's farm records and analysis section, Philip Jensen will be responsible for encouraging the use of various record-keeping systems including Canfarm and account books. This involves promoting these systems, preparing publications, analysis of farm businesses and maintaining contact with the agencies offering the Canfarm system. The records and analysis section also publishes the Farm Management Data Manual, and handles requests from farmers for information.

A native of Olds, Alberta, Mr. Jensen graduated from the University of Alberta in 1971 with a B.Sc. in agricultural economics, majoring in farm management and marketing. He was employed as assistant district agriculturist at Evansburg and worked for the Bank of Montreal before becoming agricultural economist with the farm management branch in 1973.

Financial planning, primarily in the areas of credit and business arrangements, will be Len Fullen's chief concern as agricultural economist with the farm management branch. His duties will involve work with estate and income tax management, and advising farmers of the merits of different forms of business arrangements - partnerships, incorporation, etc.

Mr. Fullen grew up on a mixed farm in the Claresholm area and later attended California State Polytechnic University, majoring in animal science. He returned to the Claresholm area where he farmed and worked for a local ranch, specializing in breeding exotic cattle.

(continued)

Farm Management Branch Appointments (cont'd)

He then attended the University of Alberta to study agricultural economics, and was recently employed at the university to evaluate Canada Manpower farm management training courses.

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May 26, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREE DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

The director of Alberta Agriculture's Extension Division, John Calpas, has announced the appointments of John Hladky, Andrew Birch and Mike Clawson to the position of district agriculturist at Camrose, Stettler and Foremost respectively.

Mr. Hladky replaces Don McLennan at Camrose who has been transferred to Medicine Hat to replace Jack Anderson who has retired

Mr. Hladky, a native Albertan, received his B.Sc. in Agriculture in 1972, having majored in soil science. Since February 1974 until his present appointment, he was employed as an agrologist with Alberta Lands and Forests. Prior to that, he worked for Alberta Agriculture's Marketing Division where he completed two investigational studies on processed poultry products and institutional buying patterns.

Mr. Birch will be working with Ross Gould at the Stettler office. He was born at Taber and completed his high school there. He then enrolled in the University of Lethbridge, later transferring to the University of Saskatchewan where he obtained his B.Sc. in Agriculture in 1973. His major was Animal Husbandary.

Mr. Birch joined Alberta Agriculture in the summer of 1973. He trained as district agriculturist under Del Steed at Cardston and then took a year's leave of absence to travel. His special interests are range management, feedlot operations and forage crop production.

(continued)

Three District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

Mr. Clawson, formerly assistant district agriculturist at Claresholm, replaces Jamie Williamson at Foremost who resigned earlier this spring to go farming.

Mr. Clawson, a native of Stirling, Alberta, graduated from Brigham Young University in 1969 with a B.Sc. in Agriculture. Three years later he obtained his M.Sc. in Agronomy from the same university.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM EXPANDS

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin Moore, reports that between 18,000 and 19,000 Alberta farmers will be covered under the province's All-Risk Crop Insurance program this year.

Close to 6,000 new applications for insurance were received this spring, resulting in a net gain in farmer participation of more than 35 per cent over last year. Mr. Moore foresees the possibility of coverage on farm crops under the program exceeding $200 million compared with last year's record $125 million.

The agriculture minister attributed the sharp increase in policyholders to several factors, one of the most important being the network of offices established throughout the province. Fieldmen, working out of 52 service offices opened by the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, thoroughly covered the province this year to ensure that all farmers had an opportunity of placing insurance on their crops. Previously, sales had been handled through commission agents.

A number of changes have been made in the crop insurance program which Mr. Moore says provides farmers with more complete protection than in previous years.

(continued)

Crop Insurance Program Expands (cont'd)

Insured farmers are now eligible for payments on summerfallow acreage they are not able to seed due to excessive spring moisture, and for payments on cropped acreage that cannot be harvested in the fall, because of unfavourable weather and snow. Other areas of insurance coverage are also being reviewed. Alberta Agriculture staff, for example, are presently working closely with a number of insurance firms in an effort to develop a broader insurance program for Alberta's livestock industry.

Mr. Moore says today's farmers are becoming more insurance-conscious after having experienced several years of crops being extensively damaged by hail, frost, drought and bad harvesting weather. Moreover, he says few farmers can withstand a serious crop loss when they are faced with today's high operating costs.

All-Risk crop insurance is a joint program of the governments of Alberta and Canada, and is intended to provide protection against disaster-type losses.

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June 2, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAIRY CO-OPERATIVES

Alberta's agricultural minister, Marvin E. Moqre, has announced that groups which have anticipated forming large scale dairy co-operatives will have to discontinue their efforts because of subsidy refusals by the federal government.

The federal government recently indicated that the proposed large scale operations, involving up to 1,000 dairy cows, would not be given any quota subsidy beyond that presently available to individual and multiple operations. Alberta Agriculture's support for these ventures was conditional upon quota subsidy extensions being provided by federal authorities.

The reasons given by Ottawa for the decision against expanding subsidies were:

- The initial intent of expanding milk productions is being met by the entry of new producers and expansion of operations of existing producers in the dairy industry. Thus, a move towards large scale operations, created merely to increase production, does not seem warranted at this time.
- Adjustments of support prices have made small farm operations, that were previously marginal, more viable and thus the need for farm consolidation is disappearing.

(continued)

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Dairy Co-operatives (cont'd)

- The viability of such "super farms" is questionable, in view of past experiences in large-scale dairy operations.
- This type of farm would have a considerable impact upon the smaller farmers by decreasing their competitive ability and perhaps by limiting an individual's opportunity for expanding or entering into the dairy industry.

Mr. Moore added that there still exists an opportunity for small three member co-operatives, subject to the Canadian Dairy Commission's "Conditions and Rules for 1975 and 1976". In particular, when two or more people jointly own a dairy farm, a subsidy may be authorized for each owner who is actively engaged in the operation and who has a considerable financial interest. The total subsidy, however, cannot exceed a maximum of three times the amount available for one individual.

For this type of operation to be recognized, quite a lengthy application form is required to be completed and approved by the Canadian Dairy Commission. Anyone wanting more information in this regard should contact Stuart Thomas, chairman of the Alberta Dairy Control Board, Provincial Building, Wetaskiwin, Alberta.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDLOTS IN COLORADO

"As is the case elsewhere, the beef feeding industry in Colorado is going through difficult times," says Allen Toly, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Claresholm who visited several feedlots there as a member of the Alberta Corn Committee's tour.

Currently the sixth largest beef feeding state in the U. S., Colorado has one million cattle in feedlots varying in size from the typical smaller family operation, so common in Alberta, to the world's largest feedlot, Monfort, at Greely, which has a feeding capacity of 250,000 head.

According to Mr. Toly, most of the feedlot operations the group visited were in business to stay and were prepared to ride out the depressed income cycle. "A few feedlots," he says, "have gone out of business, but the general attitude is healthy. All feedlot operators and managers attribute the present beef build-up and feedlot dilemma to the mid-1973 meat price freeze. The pipeline has not yet become unclogged."

Mr. Toly reports the majority of the feedlots visited were feeding mostly 'lot-owned' cattle and that the larger feedlots have cut back on cattle numbers.

(continued)

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Feedlots in Colorado (cont'd)

Monfort, for example, has only 150,000 head of cattle on feed, and Ceres Land Company at Sterling has reduced its numbers to 45,000 from a capacity of 80,000.

Coors feedlot, outside Denver, has a feeding capacity of 15,000 head but was feeding only 11,000 head and was planning to go out of cattle feeding. The parent company, Adolph Coors Brewery of Colorado, set up the feedlot 15 years ago, mainly to provide a reliable market for its dried distillers solubles. The fact that a market for these pelleted brewery by-products is no longer a problem, and the experience of two unprofitable years in the feedlot business, have played a big part in the brewery's decision to get out of the cattle business.

Mr. Toly says the above case is typical of many non-agricultural industries in the United States which ventured into various phases of farming. As a general rule, they are not prepared to retain for any length of time those parts of their operations that are in the red.

"Feedlot operators in Colorado use grain corn, corn silage and high moisture corn almost exclusively in their rations," Mr. Toly says. A large portion of the corn comes from the mid-west, while the silage and high moisture corn is contracted from local farmers. One feedlot operator contracted about 5,000 acres of corn silage for his 15,000 animals. Silage yields in Colorado are similar to those in the irrigation areas of south-eastern Alberta.

(continued)

Feedlots in Colorado (cont'd)

Mr. Toly reports that diethylstilbestrol (DES) implants are still used in the Colorado feedlots. "One manager," he says, "stated that there were no immediate signs of the chemical being banned as no public hearings on its use have been scheduled until 1976 by the Food and Drug Administration." The main reason for a reversal of the initial ruling that banned DES in the States was the lack of public hearings.

"A current trend in Colorado," Mr. Toly says, "is for small operations to carry calves from 500 to 750 pounds on lower cost roughages." The larger feedlots do the finishing, thereby spreading the risk. Mr. Toly says the feedlots he saw had a high percentage of heifers on feed to reduce the feeding period.

Another common trend in the States is for larger feedlots to become co-owners of packing plants. However, recent U. S. legislation does not allow feedlots doing custom feeding to become integrated with packing houses.

Mr. Toly says that opinions vary as to when the new beef grading system will be initiated in the States. Consumers are evidentally exerting political pressure aimed at ensuring that their meat costs will be lower, since the new grades will favor leaner cuts, which, theoretically, will cost less to produce.

One of the highlights of the feedlot tour in Colorado was a visit to a pilot plant that converts feedlot manure into 27 per cent protein cattle supplement.

(continued)

Feedlots in Colorado

Reported to be the first of its kind in the world, the plant was developed by Ceres Ecological Corporation, a newly formed subsiduary of Ceres Land Company, and the supplement is being used in their feedlot. The present technique facilitates the conversion of six pounds of manure into one pound of protein supplement and one pound of fertilizer. The protein supplement costs $75 per ton which is considerably higher than cottonseed or soybean supplement, but the cost is expected to drop when the plant goes into mass production.

Mr. Toly says a large percentage of cattle finishing in Colorado is being done on grass to overcome high grain costs. These animals and baby beef were selling at prices substantially below those of mature grain finished cattle and putting pressure on the higher priced quality cuts.

"U.S. cattle groups," Mr. Toly says, "are putting forward a bill to congress, called the Beef Research and Consumer Education Bill, which, if approved, will set up a national check-off assessment that will be used for promotion, research, consumer education and market development.

"The check-off would cost feeders 30¢ for each $100 worth of beef sold and could earn up to $30 million. Fifty per cent of the check-off would be used for market development, 40 per cent for research and the balance for studying foreign markets and providing consumer education. At the present time the industry spends $3.5 million for beef development."

June 2, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OILSEED RESPONSES TO FERTILIZERS

"Researchers have found that oilseed responses to fertilizer application are greatly affected by the method of application," says Jo-Anne Willman, Alberta Agriculture's research editor who attended the Oilseed and Plant Protein Symposium in Winnipeg.

She explains that the application of a large amount of fertilizer with the seed causes seedling injury. This injury results in a less than anticipated increase in yield from the fertilizer application.

Rapeseed and mustard both have a high nitrogen requirement and even fallow land often does not have enough available nitrogen to give maximum yields. On non-fallow land it is recommended that 120 pounds of nitrogen per acre be applied. Where conditions are excellent for crop growth such as on irrigated land perhaps even larger amounts would be economical. In the drier areas where the potential rapeseed yield is lower smaller amounts of fertilizer will be required.

But the maximum amount of nitrogen fertilizer that can be applied with the seed is nine pounds per acre. To apply heavier rates the fertilizer must be broadcasted or banded away from the seed. There is a small advantage to working broadcast nitrogen into the soil researchers say.

(continued)

Oilseed Responses to Fertilizers (cont'd)

Research has shown that the common nitrogen carriers (ammonium nitrate, ammonium sulfate, anhydrous ammonia and urea) when properly applied do not differ greatly in their abilities to supply nitrogen to annual crops. Nearly all the nitrogen applied to oilseed crops will be broadcast in solid forms or banded as anhydrous ammonia, allowing considerable flexibility in time of application.

It appears on the Dark Gray soils of Alberta spring application of nitrogen fertilizer is more effective than fall application but for many soils nitrogen application can be made in the fall, in the spring before seeding or even after seeding. Nitrogen application after seeding does run the risk of not supplying the nitrogen in the early growth stages and reducing yield or doing seedling damage. But application after seeding might be worth the risk in some cases.

Flax has a lower potential yield than most other crops under similar fertility and climatic conditions, hence its requirement for nitrogen is less. Nevertheless, good yields of flax cannot be obtained on most previously cropped land unless nitrogen is added. Flax grown on summerfallow does not generally require supplemental nitrogen. Flax should respond economically to 80 pounds per acre of added nitrogen on non-fallow land in the moister areas of the prairies. In the drier areas perhaps 50 pounds per acre or less would suffice.

The phosphorus requirements for good yields of rapeseed and mustard is equal to or greater than that for wheat or barley.

(continued)

Oilseed Responses to Fertilizers (cont'd)

However, when phosphate fertilizers are banded with or near the seed, most oilseeds are able to utilize phosphorus fertilizer more efficiently than cereals so maximum response is usually obtained at lower rates than that applied to cereals.

Recommended rates of phosphate fertilizer seldom exceeds 20 pounds per acre and can be drilled with the seed to produce substantial yield increases on phosphate deficient soils. Higher rates of phosphate application can affect oilseed germination rates and reduce yields. It is best to sideband the fertilizer one inch below the seed for oilseeds. Flax does not respond to phosphate fertilizer applications as a general rule.

Mixing seed and fertilizer in the seed box is not recommended as seed viability may be impaired if seed and fertilizer remain in contact for extended periods of time particularly in a humid atmosphere.

Rapeseed, mustard and flax have a high potassium requirement but the response to added potassium has been so low the recommendations for the addition of potassium to deficient soils has been 25 to 55 pounds per acre and should not be applied with the seed.

Rapeseed and mustard also respond greatly to sulphur application where soils are deficient. But addition of excessive sulphur must be avoided for it reduces the oil content of the rapeseed and raises the glucosinolate content. Maximum response to sulphur is usually obtained at rates of 10 to 20 pounds per acre of soluble sulphur where the soil is deficient.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEED CONTROL TRIAL PROJECT

Alberta Agriculture's Weed Control Branch and the County of Beaver, 30 miles southeast of Edmonton, have embarked on a five-year trial project to attempt to control scentless mayweed in that county.

A visual appraisal of the county, carried out last year, showed that well over half of it was infested with scentless mayweed, a daisy-like plant called chamomile in Europe. Infestations ranged from light to severe with the worst usually being located on solonetzic soils, which are often difficult to cultivate.

The first phase of the present project involves acquainting every landowner and resident in the County of Beaver with the facts about scentless mayweed. They include its physical characteristics, recommended control methods and the objectives of the present project. This is to be done through personal calls by county staff, news letters, newspaper ads and columns, radio shows, and public displays.

The county of Beaver's agricultural fieldman, Laurie Weatherill says a unique feature of the project is its comprehensive and systematic approach.

(continued)

Weed Control Trial Project (cont'd)

First the county was roughly surveyed and the general area of infestation outlined on a map. This summer weed inspectors will visit every farm in this area and plot each infestation on a master map so that the exact location of every individual infestation will be known.

The overall area of infestation is being divided into portions according to the degree and density of infestation. Weed control work will be concentrated on certain portions each year until at the end of five years it is hoped that scentless mayweed will be controlled to acceptable levels in the whole county.

Farmers in the areas that are scheduled for intensive control measures this year will be contacted individually and the possible ways of tackling their mayweed problem discussed. They will also be entitled to rent county equipment if their own implements are not adequate for the job. Once an area has been more or less freed of mayweed, farmers there will be legally obliged to keep the weed under control. If they do not do so, the county will do it for them and charge for the work.

The reason that scentless mayweed is becoming such a serious weed problem in the province is that tillage is only effective on certain types of soil, and only one herbicide, mecoprop, can be used in cereal crops. Unfortunately, this chemical only supresses the weed's growth; it does not kill it.

(continued)

Weed Control Trial Project (cont'd)

Other herbicides can be used on wasteland and on pastures, but in recent years scentless mayweed has been encroaching more and more onto cultivated land. Once it has invaded an area its seriousness is underlined by the fact that the seeds can lay dormant for as long as 13 years, and germinate when conditions are favorable.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEACE COUNTRY SMALL FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY

The Peace Country Small Fruit Growers' Society was formed three years ago to investigate the possibility of growing small fruits on a commercial scale in the Peace River region.

The three types of fruits involved are Saskatoons, chokecherries and rosehips, which will be processed into jams and jellies and sold through retail outlets. The idea is to eventually build a processing plant in northern Alberta if production on a commercial scale proves feasible.

The Peace Country Small Fruit Growers' Society represents a co-operative research venture on the part of four fruit growers in the area and scientists at the federal research station at Beaverlodge and at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks. The fruit bushes were grown at Beaverlodge and Brooks.

Each of the participating growers planted one acre of each type of fruit last spring. However, it will be several years before the bushes are in full production and results can be evaluated.

In the meantime, staff at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks and at the provincial government's food laboratory in Edmonton are testing different fruit processing methods to find the most efficient way of producing a top quality product.

(continued)

Peace Country Small Fruit Growers Society (cont'd)

The chokecherries and rosehips being used in these tests come from native fruit bushes in the Peace River region, while the Saskatoons are from bushes that have been propagated over the years at Beaverlodge for research purposes.

The fruits being evaluated under the pilot project grow particularly well in northern Alberta, and it is hoped that their propagation on a commercial scale will prove feasible, thereby helping to diversify crop production in the northern part of the province.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 2, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NUMBER OF ALBERTA FARMERS' MARKETS GROWING

You don't want to frustrate yourself all day on the golf course....your lumbago is too bad for working in the garden....relax.....take a few hours off and visit one of Alberta's popular farmers' markets.

Here you will find eggs, honey, handicrafts, antiques and a large variety of vegetables and fruit when they are in season. You will also enjoy the friendly informal atmosphere that is one of the unique features of these markets.

The number of farmers' markets that will be operating on a regular basis this year has increased to 23 from last year's total of 16. In addition, there will be markets in a few centres operating on an irregular basis.

To help Alberta residents and visitors from outside the province to take advantage of the opportunity to visit a farmers' market, the Alberta Farmers' Market Committee and Travel Alberta are going to circulate a map brochure via Travel Alberta information booths which will show the location of each market and tell which days the markets are open.

(continued)

Number of Alberta Farmers' Markets Growing (cont'd)

Following is a list of the 23 markets which are or will be open for business this summer and the days on which they will be operating.

Location	Opening Date	Days Operating
Barrhead	June 28	Saturday
Bon Accord	Not known	Wednesday
Bonnyville	June 14	Saturday
Calgary-Agrimart 2003 McKnight Blvd. N.E.	Open	Wednesday and Saturday
Calgary - Golden Acres Sentres 420 - 48 Ave. N. E.	Open	Wednesday through Sunday
Camrose (Fairgrounds)	Open	Saturday
Champion	June 28	Saturday & Sunday
Drayton Valley	Open	Wednesday
Grand Centre	Not known	Thursday
Grande Prairie	Open	Saturday
Innisfail	July 17	Thursday
Lac la Biche	June 27	Friday
Peace River (Peace Valley Produce Co-op)	Not known	Daily
Red Deer	Open	Saturday
Sedgewick	Not known	Saturday
St. Paul	Open	Tuesday
Stony Plain	Open	Saturday
Strathmore	Open	Saturday
Thorhild	Not known	Friday
Valleyview	Open	Saturday
Vegreville	Open	Friday
Vermilion	Open	Tuesday
Whitecourt	Open	Saturday

David Rous, chairman of the Alberta's Farmers' Market Committee, says that the renewed interest in farmers' markets has been spurred on by the consumer's 'back to nature' movement. In response to this demand, more and more centres are becoming interested in starting a farmers' market.

(continued)

Number of Alberta Farmers' Markets Growing (cont'd)

The committee has now received a total of 87 enquiries on the mechanics of starting a market. He points out that the success of any farmers' market is a strong 'backbone' of stall-holders. "Lack of consumers has not been a problem to date," he says.

Mr. Rous predicts that before very long there will be farmers' markets along controlled access highways, in shopping centres and even in the central core areas of larger cities.

For information concerning the Alberta Farmers' Market program contact your local district agriculturist or write the Commodity Section, Marketing Division, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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June 2, 1975
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FACTS ABOUT SPRAY SURFACTANTS

Although it is often difficult to separate fact from fiction when it comes to claims made for surfactants (wetting agents, spray adjuvants and detergents) used with herbicides, certain facts cannot be argued, says Arnold Stearman of Alberta Agriculture's Weed Control Branch. They are that:

- the use of a spray additive not recommended on a product label would be considered in the same light as not following the recommendations, and the manufacturer would not accept responsibility for the results.
- a surfactant will not improve the performance of a pre-emergence or pre-plant incorporated herbicide. The physical properties of the spray mixture may be improved by the addition of a surfactant if problems have been encountered in mixing or spraying, but it will not improve the weed kill.
- herbicide formulations intended for plant foliage application (2,4-D, Banvel) already contain surfactants which have been designed and formulated for that particular herbicide. The addition of another surfactant is unlikely to improve the herbicide's performance against weeds, but could increase its effect on the crop and cause some injury.

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June 2, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIBRE PLANT CONTAINERS

"Do I need to remove the fibre container around my new plant?" This is a frequently asked question as more and more plants, shrubs and young trees are being sold in containers.

Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer, Arlene Chesney, says that plants growing in fibre containers should never be removed before they are transplanted. The container readily breaks down in the ground, and prevents the soil around the roots of the plant from being disturbed. Because the plant does not suffer a setback when planted in a fibre container, it can be planted in the garden throughout the summer, providing it is planted carefully and watered well.

Miss Chesney recommends cutting the top rim of the container and slashing its sides in several places before setting it in the ground. Slashing the sides makes it easier for the roots of the plant, shrub or young tree to break out.

Although plastic containers must be removed, plants sold in these can still be transplanted without a setback as long as the ball of soil around the roots is left intact. The best way to remove the plant is to turn the container upside-down and give it a firm tap on the bottom with a solid object.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 2, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STARTING A NEW LAWN

Although you can start a new lawn any time from May to September in Alberta, June seems to be the best month, says Arlene Chesney, Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer. Moisture is usually more plentiful during this month than later in the season.

Seed Bed

The first prerequisite of a new lawn is a good seed bed. Under normal conditions it should consist of at least four to six inches of good quality top-soil that is free of weed seeds. If, however, the sub-soil is very porous and granular, you should have at least eight inches of top-soil to prevent the lawn from drying out too quickly. If the sub-soil has a high clay content, it is a good idea to mix in some peat moss or sedge peat (10 to 15 per cent). Farm manure is another good source of organic matter.

Seeding Recommendations

Seeding recommendations vary with the location. A good mixture for a sunny location is 50 per cent Kentucky bluegrass and 50 per cent creeping red fescue (by weight).

(continued)

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Starting A New Lawn (cont'd)

The recommended rate is five pounds per 1,000 square feet. Creeping red fescue is a good grass for a shady location. Dawson and Jamestown are two good creeping red fescue varieties. Nugget, Sydsport, Baron and Merion are all Kentucky bluegrass varieties.

If you do not have a readily available supply of water, you would be wise to plant a more drought tolerant grass than those mentioned above. Crested wheatgrass is drought tolerant and the variety Fairway is often used because it is a short persistant grass. The recommended seeding rate is six pounds per 1,000 square feet.

To seed your lawn you broadcast the seed over the soil surface and rake the soil lightly to cover the seed. Then water the area thoroughly, being careful not to let puddles form as they could wash out the seed.

Fertilizing

When practical, it is a good idea to work the fertilizer into the soil before you seed a new lawn. It gives the seeds a good 'boost' and helps the turf to become uniformly established. If applied at the prescribed rates, an application when the lawn is sown and another one about eight weeks later should be enough for the season.

(continued)

Starting a New Lawn (cont'd)

You can either apply the fertilizer by broadcasting it over the area or with a mechanical spreader. Since recommended rates vary with the type of fertilizer used, you should follow directions on the package. For best results on an established lawn, you should apply the fertilizer when the grass is dry and the humidity is low. Then thoroughly water the area to wash the fertilizer into the soil.

Remember, the success of your lawn will depend to a great extent upon regular mowing, watering and weed control during its early stage of growth.

You can obtain more detailed information on starting a new lawn and on maintaining an established lawn from the publication "Lawn Building and Maintenance". It is available from district agriculturists and the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton. T5K 2C8

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AGRI-NEWS

June 2, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SECURITIES APPOINTMENT

Bob McKenzie has been appointed loans officer in the securities and field services section of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). He will be located at Camrose.

In announcing this appointment, Lorne Ordze, director of the ADC and chairman of the board of directors, says Mr. McKenzie will be responsible for the security and collection work involved in farm loans and guaranteed loans made by ADC.

In this capacity he will be handling requests for loan extensions and for contacting borrowers whose accounts have fallen into arrears. In the latter case, he will attempt to find out why the borrower is in his present situation, and when necessary, will put him in contact with the ADC's loans officer in the borrower's area. The loans officer will then attempt to work out a solution to the borrower's credit situation.

Mr. McKenzie grew up in the Vancouver and Edmonton areas. After serving with the RCMP in Saskatchewan for two years, he enrolled at the University of Alberta. He graduated with a B. Comm. with a major in accounting in 1972 and then went to work in Imperial Oil's wholesale credit department. His duties there included the analysis of financial statements. In 1974 he became a member of the Credit Institute of Canada.

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AGRI·NEWS

June 2, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION APPOINTMENTS

Lorne Ordze, director of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) and chairman of the board of directors has announced the appointment of two regional development consultants. They are Peter Ignatiuk who has been appointed to the Vermilion office and Jack Olde Heuvel who has been appointed to Barrhead.

As regional development consultants they are in charge of all lending programs in their region and are responsible for everseeing the ADC staff in that region.

Mr. Ignatiuk was raised on a farm in Saskatchewan and received his B.S.A. in 1972 and his B. Comm. in 1973 from the University of Saskatchewan. He worked for a consumer lending agency prior to joining ADC in September of 1973 as a loans officer in the Grande Prairie office.

Mr. Olde Heuvel was raised on a farm in the Mayerthorpe district and received his B.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Alberta in 1970. Prior to joining ADC in 1973, he worked for several agri-business firms.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRI-NEWS

June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE WORLD'S LARGEST BEEF COMPANY

Sales of the world's largest complete beef company, Monfort, topped $320 million last year.

Located near the city of Greeley, Colorado, the company was started in 1930 by Kenneth Monfort, the president. By 1968 it had expanded to the point where it had a feeding capacity of 100,000 head. It now has two feedlots with a combined capacity of 250,000 head. In 1960 Mr. Monfort expanded the family operation to include meat packing facilities. This expansion was followed by large scale boxed beef production at the packing plant level. In 1970 Monfort went public with the family retaining the controlling interest.

Feedlot

The original feedlot was voluntarily relocated for environmental reasons from the northern edge of Greeley to a site 12 miles east of the city at a cost of $7 million. Both the Monfort feedlots go beyond state and federal standards for the prevention of water pollution and in all important areas of pollution control. Runoff water is collected in holding ponds and re-cycled to irrigate farmland owned by the company.

The manure is spread on land used by the farmers who sell their corn silage crops to Monfort for roughage. Alan Toly, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Claresholm,who visited Monfort as a member of the Alberta Corn Committee, says, "the energy situation in the States could result in the economical use of feedlot manure as an energy producing gas--methane This process of producing methane gas from manure, called anaerobic digestion, also enhances the value of the residual manure as a fertilizer. This dual utilization of manure is now being studied by the company, Mr. Toly adds.

- (cont'd) -

The World's Largest Beef Company (cont'd)

He reports that yearlings, weighing from 650 to 850 pounds are shipped by rail and truck to the two feedlots from all over the western United States. Each feedlot covers about 400 acres of land, and individual pens are about an acre in size. They hold as many as 425 head of cattle each. Feed processing is done at the feedlots with each lot processing about 900 tons of grain a day by using 44 cooker and flaking units. This works out to approximately 25 million bushels of grain a year. The annual purchase of silage, grown on 20,000 acres of land by local farmers under contract, is about 400,000 tons.

Purchasing operations for shell corn extend into eastern Colorado Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa. The company has its own elevators in Nebraska and Kansas, and the corn is shuttled to the feedlots in 115 company leased railway cars and by company owned trucks and private carriers.

Mr. Toly says the ration for each pen of cattle is prescribed by Monfort's nutritionists. The information is transcribed onto a data processing system which activates automatic hopper scales which measure the exact amount of each ingredient. The same system automatically charges that pen of cattle with that truck load of feed and reduces the feedlot inventory by that amount.

Depending upon such factors as size, condition and background, the cattle are fed from 130 to 175 days before being shipped to the nearby Monfort packing plant.

Packing Plant

Recent expansion has increased the plants production capacity to 13,000 from 9,600 head per week (five and a half days) on a single shift. The plant can also process sheep and employs more than half the company's work force of 2,000 people.

- (con't) -

The World's Largest Beef Company (con't)

"Nearly all the carcasses", says Mr. Toly, "are cut down into the various primal and sub-primal cuts, which are then boxed and shipped to customers in the retail, hotel and restaurant trade. The plant is capable of producing nearly 7.5 million pounds of boxed beef a week or processing 300 head of cattle an hour.

Being a highly flexible operation, the plant can produce in great volume such products as fabricated boneless boxed beef and lamb, and bone-in boxed primal cuts called MOPAC. Monfort was the pioneer in both processes.

MOPAC 'boxes in' freshness and purity through the use of carbon dioxide pellets. These odorless and tasteless pellets greatly inhibit bacteria growth and help prevent shrinkage. The tightly sealed MOPAC fabricated beef cartons are shipped directly to customers' warehouses.

Mr. Toly explains that the Monfort process consists of boning-out and trimming the carcass into the various primal and sub-primal cuts, packaging them in vacuum bags and boxing them for shipment to retail chains.

Boxed beef, as opposed to carcass shipments, lowers costs because some of the bones and excess fat have been removed and are used as by-products at the plant.

Although most Monfort packing plant beef is shipped to supermarket chains and gourmet restaurants and hotels, an increasing volume is being further processed at the Monfort portion food plant for sale to another type of customer --- the so called 'fast-food' operator. 'Fast-food' operations include high volume restaurants, airlines, hotels and institutions.

June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFICIAL OPENING OF LAMB PROCESSORS CO-OP LTD.

An impossible dream come true! That is the way some people describe the official opening of Lamb Processors Co-op Ltd., scheduled to take place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 21.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will be performed by Dr. Hugh Horner, deputy premier of Alberta and minister of Transportation. It will be followed by a plant tour and a barbecue featuring Alberta lamb.

Provincial sheep specialist, John Taylor, believes that the opening of Lamb Processors Co-op Ltd. is a major milestone in the development of the Canadian sheep industry. He says "Now that the lamb plant is operating, sheep producers in Western Canada are assured of a guaranteed market and an honest price for their lambs."

Anyone interested in attending this exciting event in the history of Western Canada's sheep industry is welcome.

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June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RURAL REAL ESTATE REPORT AVAILABLE

The recently published 1974 Alberta Rural Real Estate Values Report shows that the price paid for all agricultural land last year averaged $108 an acre compared with $81 an acre in 1973.

The report is a statistical summary of rural real estate market values in Alberta and covers all sales registered in the land titles offices in 1974. It was compiled jointly by Alberta Agriculture's Resource Economics Branch and the Lands Division of Alberta Energy and Natural Resources.

The report contains information on:

. The volume of rural real estate transacted.

. Agricultural real estate values.

. Real estate values in the urban peripheries.

. Rural sales described by plan, corporate sales and sales to non-resident individuals.

Copies of the 1974 Alberta Rural Real Estate Values Report can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton. T5K 2C8

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June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AERIAL APPLICATION OF AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS IN ALBERTA

The advantages of aerial spraying are being realized by more and more farmers as the value of agricultural crops increases and as more knowledge becomes available on yield reductions from weeds and insects.

What are the advantages of applying agricultural chemicals by aircraft? What are the disadvantages? And what are the economics of aerial spraying versus ground spraying?

Alberta Agriculture's Weed Control Branch sponsored a study last winter on aerial chemical application, with particular emphasis on herbicides, under the Priority Employment Program (PEP) in an attempt to answer these questions. Walter Yarish, weed ecologist, supervised the study which entailed a literature review and a questionnaire survey of aerial applicators and their clients.

Although aerial spraying has increased to the point where there are 58 per cent more applicators than there were three years ago, very little research has been done to date on aerial chemical application. It is estimated that of the 8.2 million acres sprayed with 2,4-D and MCPA in 1974 about five per cent was done from the air.

Advantages of Aerial Spraying

- Speed with which the job can be done.
- Elimination of possible soil compaction and crop damage from ground equipment, both of which reduce crop yields.
- Treatment of land which could not be sprayed with ground equipment because of the topography.
- Treatment of land which is too wet for ground equipment.

- (cont'd) -

Aerial Application of Agricultural Chemicals in Alberta (cont'd)

Disadvantages of Aerial Spraying

- Some fields are inaccessible to aircraft.
- Spraying operations are curtailed by bad weather and darkness.
- Higher out-of-pocket expenses.
- Coverage may not be adequate for some crops because of low chemical volumes applied.
- Greater drift hazard.

The study showed that most of these disadvantages are now being overcome as technology makes better equipment available.

From the enironmental point of view, drift is still the number one problem. To solve this problem more co-operative research is needed among applicators, industry and government.

More information is also needed on chemical dispersal systems. At the present time aerial applicators in Alberta use the boom and nozzle system for applying liquid chemicals. Although other systems are available, only 50 per cent of the aircraft in the survey used for agricultural spraying are equipped for applying dry chemicals.

Provisions need to be made for more efficient use of aircraft and pilots during the "off-season" if adequate service is to be assured during the peak spraying season.

Less-experienced aerial applicators need to be better informed and trained. To help alleviate this problem an agricultural pilots training course was started in Vermilion last year and is continuing this year.

Recommendations should appear on all container labels regarding whether or not a chemical can be applied from the air, and, if so, at what rate. Most container labels state ground application rates only.

Properly informed, objective people in all areas of aerial application are needed in Alberta. This problem could be overcome by establishing a well informed body which would act as advisors and consultants on agricultural chemical aerial application policies.

More information on the study can be obtained from the Weed Control Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta. T5K 2C8.

June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST PERFORMANCE TEST SHEEP SALE

Eighty-five purebred rams from three different breeds will be sold by auction at the Hereford Center in Innisfail on June 21 at 10 a.m.

Representing Sulfolk, Hampshire , and Corriedale breeds, the animals are now on test at Alberta's first record of performance sheep testing station, which opened earlier this spring at the Calgary Stampede Grounds. The rams are being tested for feed efficiency by breed, rate of gain, rib-eye area and backfat thickness.

John Taylor, Alberta Agriculture's sheep specialist, reports that the level at which the rams are gaining is well above that anticipated under test conditions.

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June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON STATE LIVESTOCK SPECIALISTS VISIT SOUTHERN ALBERTA

A group of about 30 livestock specialists and producers from Washington State will be touring the Calgary and Lethbridge areas on June 11,12 and 13.

They will be arriving in Alberta from the British Columbia interior where they are studying range management. In Alberta they will visit Western Breeders Ltd, a cattle semen producing establishment at Balzac, and tour the Hole Hereford Ranch north of Calgary. They will also attend a demonstration of least-cost rations at Love Feeds Ltd. in Calgary and visit F. Bertels hog operation at Okotoks.

Other highlights of the visit will be a tour of Harry Hays' ranch, west of High River, and a meeting with the staff at the federal research station at Lethbridge. These will be followed by a tour of Swifts Canadian packing plant at Lethbridge and a visit to Jensen's sheep operation at Magrath.

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June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA'S SPRING MINK CROP

Alberta's spring mink crop is down from a year ago.

Alberta Agriculture's fur farms supervisor, R. W. Gillies, reports this year's miss ratio (non-producers) is slightly higher than average and the litter size is somewhat smaller. Estimates show that the 1975 average litter will probably be about three and a quarter kits per female compared with an average over the years of three and a half kits per litter or better.

Mr. Gillies says the causes of the smaller mink crop are open to speculation, but he feels that our unusually cold spring has undoubtedly had something to do with it in Alberta. "Mother mink," he says, "seem to have an easier time whelping and caring for their young when the weather is fine." However, the weather cannot be the only cause. Other areas of Canada have also reported a smaller than usual mink crop.

"Hopefully," says Mr. Gillies, "the final count will show that 70,000 to 80,000 mink have been raised this year. About half of this volume will have been produced on four or five large Alberta mink ranches."

On the brighter side, feed supplies have improved and prices for some ration ingredients are expected to be more reasonable. Feed sources that were thought to be lost to mink farmers a few years ago are apparently now readily available. In fact, according to Mr. Gillies, suppliers are glad to have mink farmers to use up their surpluses.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOME INSECTS THAT INFEST ALBERTA TREES AND SHRUBS

Although there are several hundred insect species that infest trees and shrubs in Alberta, only a few do enough damage to warrant control, says Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski.

Some of those that may cause serious damage are listed below with recommended control measures when applicable.

Aphids

Most aphids do not harm trees and shrubs, but there are some that can cause severe damage. Depending upon the species, they suck the sap from the leaves, stems or roots of the tree or shrub. The leaves may become dappled and curl up or they may develop grey spots and wilt.

Since the majority of trees and shrubs can support small numbers of aphids, be sure thay are causing damage before resorting to a chemical pesticide. Many of the predators which live on aphids are killed when a chemical is applied. If control is necessary, apply malathion, dimethoate or diazinon as directed on the label. Malathion should not be used when the temperature is below 20°C.

Gall Insects and Mites

Damage from gall insects and mites can take many forms. Some cause irregular shaped leaves, while others cause irregular shaped growths on the leaf surface. Still others cause galls (lumps) on the stem or branches. The size of these growths vary from very tiny to quite large.

The apparent injury from these insects and mites usually far exceeds the actual injury. Hence, chemical control is seldom necessary. If it is necessary the species doing the damage should be identified so that the recommended pesticide can be applied at the time that will give the best results. The timing of the application is usually critical.

- (cont'd) -

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Some Insects that Infest Alberta Trees and Shrubs (cont'd)

Forest Tent Caterpillar

These insects hatch in the spring and the larvae feed in clusters. Small areas of defoliation may be noticed at first. As the larvae mature they may completely defoliate the tree or shrub. Most of the defoliating occurs in the latter half of June. Although tent caterpillars seldom kill a tree or shrub, a severe infestation may reduce the annual growth.

Forest tent caterpillars can be controlled on a single shrub by removing them by hand and destroying them. Malathion or diazinon is recommended for larger trees and shelterbelts.

Birch Leaf Miner

As indicated by its name, this insect attacks birch trees. The eggs are laid in the upper layer of the leaves causing discoloration around the point where the egg is inserted. This blotch or blister spreads when the larvae start to feed, eventually causing the whole leaf to turn brown. Often a tree that is badly infested will lose many of its leaves prematurely.

A systemic insecticide like dimethoate provides the most effective control. Other insecticides are not effective because of the critical timing required. To give full season control, the chemical should be applied about the middle of May and again at the end of July.

There are two other species of this insect which attack birch trees in Alberta, but they do not cause serious damage. They can be differentiated from the one mentioned above by the fact that they cause the margin of the leaves to turn brown as opposed to the whole leaf.

Lilac Leaf Miner

The larvae of this insect feeds between the upper and lower surface of the leaves of lilac bushes, causing brown spots to appear. In the latter stages of infestation the larvae emerge from between the leaf surfaces and cause the leaf in which they feed to curl.

A systemic insecticide like dimethoate is recommended for controlling the lilac leaf miner. The first application should be done in mid-June and the second at the beginning of August.

When using any of the insecticides mentioned above, always follow the label directions carefully and observe the precautions.

June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROGRESSIVE FARMING DAYS COMING UP

You haven't forgotten about Progressive Farming Days, have you? "Anything that is New" is the theme of this year's show, scheduled for June 24 to 27 at the Olds College.

Formerly held in the winter, Progressive Farming Days is being held in June this year so that farmers can see the forage machinery in action. It includes silage equipment, loose haying equipment and baled haying equipment.

There are three sections to the show. In addition to the above, the farm section will feature silos; feed handling systems; feed loaders and unloaders; all types of stock feeders; stock waterers; field and garden tractors; tillage, seeding and harvesting equipment; field sprayers and many other types of machinery.

The second section will concentrate on livestock handling equipment. Here you will see gates, fencing, chutes, loading docks, scales, squeezes and numerous small items associated with livestock management.

The third section is called outdoor living. The displays here will feature the latest in patio furniture, equipment, lighting and barbecuing; outdoor swimming pools; indoor-outdoor carpeting; summer cookery; food safety; boats and boating equipment. There will also be a country vacations display and a selection of shrubs, designed for farmstead planting.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MORE CERTIFIED SEED NEEDED

Alberta Agriculture's cereal and oilseed crops specialist suggests that good commercial seed growers who planted foundation or registered seed this spring have their crops inspected so that they will qualify as certified seed.

Sherman Yelland points out that world markets are becoming more and more selective in the grain and forage seed they will buy. The Canadian Wheat Board, for example, is demanding a minimum of 95 per cent purity of variety in the crops they contract for sale around the world. In the case of forage seed, it may be only certified seed that will qualify for the export market.

Malting barley companies also demand high varietal purity. Each year many samples are rejected because they contain a mixture of varieties. Certified seed guarantees varietal purity and the privilege of using a varietal name.

To have your crop inspected, write immediately to the Canadian Seed Growers Association in Ottawa and request an inspection. In the past the deadline for requesting an inspection has been June 10 for forage seed, rape, mustard and fall seeded crops, and June 25 for all other groups. However, there is a good chance that the small late-filing fee will be waived for 'first-time' applicants to encourage them to apply, and also to make allowances for present mail delivery problems.

Crops being grown for forage seed and fall sown cereals do not need to be inspected until the year following seeding. The simple regulations and procedures for growing certified seed (circular 6-73) may be obtained from the Canadian Seed Growers Association or from your district agriculturist.

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June 9, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OLD SEED

If your vegetables are not coming up, it may be because you planted old seed.

Arlene Chesney, horticultural liaison officer with Alberta Agriculture, says that the viability of vegetable seed gradually decreases with age. They deteriorate more quickly when stored under warm,moist conditions than when stored under dry, cool conditions.

Corn, onion and parsnip seed germinates well for only one or two years, while bean, pea and carrot seed should germinate for three years. Beet, pepper, pumpkin and tomato seed can be expected to germinate well for four years. As a general rule, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, cucumber, lettuce, radish, rutabagas, spinach and squash seed will germinate satisfactorily after five years.

However, it is a good idea with any seed that is more than two years old to test its germination before planting it. You can do this by planting a specific number of seeds (usually 100) in a pot of good soil, or by putting them on blotting paper in a covered dish. Be sure to keep blotting paper moist. The time it takes the seeds to germinate and the number of seeds that germinate will give you a good idea of the seed's vigour.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AGRI-NEWS

June 16, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF PRICE AND SUPPLY PROSPECTS

Although Canadian slaughter cattle prices are holding the line at the present time, further price increases are expected over the summer months.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, Jim Dawson, says, "I would not be surprised to see the Canadian cattle market back on an import basis relative to the United States market this summer and fall. Prices should reach the mid-$50 range this summer and then drop in late summer and early fall. The volume of feedlot and grass-fed cattle marketed in the U. S. will probably depress U. S. and Canadian prices before any 'bulges' in the Canadian supply appear. With this situation in mind, plus anticipated large market volumes this fall, it would be wise to market cows and feeder cattle through the summer months whenever possible."

Although Canadian slaughter volumes were up over 12 per cent to the end of May and U. S. slaughter was up 11 per cent, the meat supply has been coming down especially in the United States. The volume of meat produced in that country in May was below the 1974 level due to lighter carcasses. The average liveweight of animals marketed this year was 1,013 pounds compared with 1,077 pounds in 1974. A second factor was the considerable drop in hog slaughter numbers and lighter slaughter weights - - 235 pounds liveweight compared with 246 pounds in 1974. A third factor was the reduction in poultry and lamb production.

Canadian meat production information for January through April shows that cattle slaughter was up 15 per cent from 1974, and that the pounds of beef produced were up by more than 12 per cent. Canadian beef carcasses are averaging 560 pounds compared with 576 in 1974. Hog slaughter was down 13 per cent from January to April and pork production was down 14 per cent. Hog carcass weights averaged 164 pounds.

(cont'd) -

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Beef Price and Supply Prospects (cont'd)

As of May 1 meat storage stocks were one per cent below the 1974 level, a good indication that the current beef supply has been moving smoothly through marketing channels.

Regarding federal beef stabilization plans, Mr. Dawson expects the federal government to make a payment after August 12 of $1 to $1.50 per hundredweight for A, B, and C slaughter cattle.

Payments under the federal cow stabilization plan, which ended on April 30, will be $5.08 per hundredweight on eligible cows. This payment applies to all cows sold between November 16 and December 13 of last year and on five per cent of the cow herd sold between December 14, 1974 and April 30, 1975, providing this five per cent was marketed over a three-month period. Regardless of herd size, a cattleman is eligible to claim on two cows sold between December 14, 1974 and April 30, 1975. Forms are available at district agriculturists' offices.

Mr. Dawson says there is nothing to report at the present time about import quotas from the U. S., as no information is available on what will happen after August 12 when the current quota policy ends.

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FOR IMMEIDATE RELEASE

WHEAT QUOTAS

Are wheat quotas likely to be open before the end of the 1975-76 crop year?

Alberta Agriculture's marketing economist, David Walker, believes they will be open even though prices are expected to be lower.

He says "A good year for exports and open quotas will prevail if centrally planned economies like the Soviet Union and China import a reasonable volume of wheat from Canada. At the present time crop prospects in these countries suggests that their import demands will not be substantial. Although the Soviet Union and China, the biggest food grain producers in the world, are both potentially self-sufficient, their self-sufficiency seldom materializes due to a multitude of reasons.

In the past they have tended to rely predominantly on Canadian wheat imports, but more recently, for political and market-related reasons, their demands have been distributed among Canada, the United States, Australia and the Argentine. At the present time it is difficult to determine how much business there will be with the Soviet Union and China because their import requirements will be related to the outcome of this year's wheat crop.

This spring the Canadian Wheat Board signed a 42-million bushel contract for wheat shipments to China between May 1975 and March 1976. The contract is part of a three-year deal for between 180 and 224 million bushels signed in October 1973. Since shipments between November 1973 and February 1975 have amounted to about 80 million bushels, 50 million bushels will have to be shipped between now and October 1976 for this deal to be fulfilled.

(cont'd)

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Wheat Quotas (cont'd)

On the political side, the situation is more favorable for Canadian wheat sales than it has been for some time, Mr. Walker says. The fact that the U. S., through its detente with the Russians and Chinese, has not achieved such objectives as freedom for Soviet Jews and peace in Indo-China is likely to mean they will take a harder line. However, the Australians will continue to provide competition for Canada as they use the same plan of diplomatic recognition followed by wheat sales.

According to Mr. Walker, it is reasonable to expect 1975-76 crop-year sales to the Soviet Union and China will amount to at least 30 and 60 million bushels respectively. He also believes that at least 500 million bushels of the 1975 crop, which is likely to exceed 600 million bushels, can be moved, providing exports to other countries run at normal levels of about 200 million bushels and taking into account domestic wheat utilization of about 170 bushels.

All this suggests that, at worst, there will be only a 100 to 150 million bushel build-up in carry-over stocks. This situation could imply quotas by the end of the 1975-76 crop year, but elevator deliveries of 550 million bushels have been guaranteed by Otto Lang. Add to this volume the amount of feed used on the Prairies and the amount of seed needed for next year's crop, and it is readily apparent that farm carry-over stocks will not increase to any degree during the 1975-76 crop year and open quotas are almost a certainty.

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June 16, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MYCOPLASMA MASTITIS IS SERIOUS

Although relatively uncommon, mycoplasma mastitis is a very serious form of mastitis in dairy cattle.

An indication of its seriousness can be gauged by the following comment: "I just wish we'd kept her isolated 'til we'd checked her out thoroughly for mastitis," one dairyman said ruefully. "If we had, maybe we wouldn't be in this mess. The vet says 75 per cent of the affected cows may have to be slaughtered and and that milk production is lost for the rest of the lactation period in the sick cows."

Little is known about how the disease is transmitted, according to Alberta Agriculture's cattle extension veterinarian, Frank Baker. He says poor milking hygiene, faulty milking machines, the use of a common syringe and needle while carrying out mass mastitis treatments and buying replacement cows from public sale yards have all been blamed for the spread of the disease. Experimentally, it is readily transmitted through inoculations into a quarter or by applying infected secretions to the skin of a teat.

Typical signs of mycoplasma mastitis in a lactating cow are sudden swelling of the udder, a rapid drop in milk production and a 'pussy' discharge in one or more quarters. Usually all four quarters become involved and affected cows may have a mild, temporary fever. However, they do not usually appear sick.

Diagnosis

A diagnosis may be made from these typical clinical symptoms, but, because of the seriousness of the disease, it should always be confirmed by a veterinarian. He will obtain a laboratory confirmation which requires special techniques and a special culture media.

(cont'd)

Mycoplasma Mastitis is Serious (cont'd)

Treatment

Treatment is ineffective, but a small number of cows will recover on their own. A cow that is infected before she calves frequently sheds the organisms in the milk which may at times appear normal. Slaughter of infected cows is often advised for economic reasons and to reduce the risk of the disease spreading in the herd.

Control

All new additions to the herd should be strictly isolated for 30 days to make sure they are free of mycoplasma mastitis. Treatment for bacterial mastitis should be done very carefully to prevent the spread of mycoplasma mastitis if it should be present. Individual tubes, rather than multidose syringes, should be used in conjunction with strict sterile techniques.

AGRI·NEWS

June 16, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SITUATION

The prognosis for this season's pasture-carrying capacity and for a second cut of hay is not as optimistic as may appear on the surface.

While recent rains throughout the province have replenished badly needed soil moisture, cool spring temperatures in southern Alberta have seriously delayed both pasture and hay growth. The result is likely to be restricted range carrying capacities and a later than normal first hay cut, which will reduce or eliminate a second cut. Silage corn yields are also likely to suffer because of late seeding.

With cattle populations still increasing there is little likelihood of any forage surplus this year, but a recent survey of alfalfa processors in Alberta, carried out by Alberta Agriculture's marketing division, shows there are alfalfa cubes and pellets available.

The survey also shows that domestic consumption of these products has jumped from 38,000 tons in the 1973-74 crop year to 68,430 tons in the present crop year. This increase is believed to reflect rapid expansion in Alberta's processing capability, the increasing popularity of pellets and cubes in all segments of the livestock industry, and a greater awareness on the part of cattlemen of the ease with which these products can be handled and fed.

The alfalfa processing industry reports an end-of-season inventory of about 16,000 tons of cubes and pellets. This carry-over, located mainly in the northern half of the province, could become a valuable reserve in light of current forage crop growing conditions and the importance of adequate protein supplementation during this era of high grain prices.

Anyone who is interested in buying alfalfa cubes or pellets can do so through his regional feed grain and forage exchange office or by contacting the Alfalfa Processors Co-op Association (Alberta Ltd,) in Edmonton.

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June 16, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHECK FOR CUTWORMS

Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, warns farmers to be on the lookout for cutworm infestations.

Cutworms are already in the Peace River region, especially around Grande Prairie and Spirit River, and are expected to make their appearance in other parts of the province as the season advances.

Apart from southern Alberta, the species that is likely to cause trouble is the red-backed cutworm. It is a very 'fleshy' larva that is about one and a half inches long when fully mature. Its distinguishing features are a pinkish-red strip running down the back of its grey body, and its habit of curling up into a tight ball when disturbed.

Mr. Dolinski strongly recommends that farmers check their cereal and oilseed crops for signs of damage. Patches of plants cut off near the ground are a sure sign that cutworms are at work. Also, what appears to be poor germination in a newly seeded crop may, in fact, be due to cutworm damage. If cutworms are present, they will be found in the soil around the plants. Often their small holes are clearly visible..

If damage is obvious or if you have one and a half to two cutworms per square foot, depending upon the density of the crop, you should spray with Phosvel at a rate of eight to 16 ounces active ingredient per acre. "Use the lower rate for small larvae (under three-quarters of an inch) and if necessary gradually increase the rate to a maximum of 16 ounces for fully mature cutworms," Mr. Dolinski says.

Another cutworm species, the pale western cutworm, is found mainly in southern Alberta. It is similar to the red-backed cutworm except that it is pale grey and has no pinkish-red line down its back. It does the same type of damage as the red-backed cutworm, but the only insecticide registered for its control is endrin which is no longer available. Its use has been curtailed in most parts of the world.

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Check for Cutworms (cont'd)

Mr. Dolinski advises anyone who finds pale western cutworms in his crops to report their presence to his district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman. Alberta Agriculture staff will then test a number of promising chemicals and attempt to obtain immediate provisional registration for the most effective one. According to Mr. Dolinski, Phosvel and Lorsban are the two chemical compounds that are most likely to work.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATION IN COLORADO

"One of the most noticeable parts of the irrigation systems in Colorado are the concrete-lined ditches."

This statement was made by Carter Curran, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Brooks, who visited Colorado earlier this year as a member of the Alberta Corn Committee tour. He says "Most of the main canals have earth banks, but many farmers have concrete-lined ditches." These are very neat, practically weed free and eliminate head ditch seepage. Apparently aluminum siphon tubes are extensively used, especially for furrow irrigated crops.

According to Mr. Curran, the concrete-lined ditches convey water very efficiently and enable the operator to flood irrigate by either installing a plywood drop gate and flooding over notched ditch banks through siphon tubes or by small plywood control gates in the ditch bank.

Both flood irrigation and sprinkler irrigation are used throughout Colorado. Side-roll systems are evidentally not as popular as they are in southern Alberta. "Many farmers have put pivot systems on rough land and are pumping from deep wells," Mr. Curran says. The cost of drilling and developing these wells, which range from 200 to 600 feet deep, is $20 to $25 per foot for a 16 inch well. Most of the irrigation pumps are electronically driven.

Mr. Curran reports that water is such a scarce commodity in Colorado that many people feel that water rights are worth more than mineral rights. "Water rights," he says, "can be traded as a commodity in the same way that land is traded." Detailed surveys are being carried out in Colorado to determine whether water tables are being affected by pumping from wells and by diverting water from streams.

June 16, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAMB SPECIALTY PLANT PROVIDES BADLY NEEDED COMPETITION

During its three weeks of operation, Lamb Processors Co-op Ltd, which will be officially opened in Innisfail on June 21, has processed 1,050 lambs.

According to the general manager, Gordon Wells, the fresh lamb has found a ready market in retail chains in Edmonton, Calgary and Toronto, and the first shipment of pelts has gone to a Winnipeg tanner. The lambs came from as far away as Boissevain, Manitoba and Salmon Arm, British Columbia.

Evidentally the plant is already having a very significant impact on the lamb market. Mr. Wells reports that the price of live lamb has jumped from 40¢ to 55¢ a pound in the short time the plant has been operating. "If there have ever been any doubts about the justification of building a lamb specialty plant," Mr. Wells says, "this dramatic price increase must certainly have dispelled them.

"The plant is providing badly needed competition in the market place and Alberta farmers have never been as optimistic as they are now about the future of the sheep industry."

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AGRI-NEWS

June 16, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SURVEY OF BEEKEEPERS

The Canadian Association of Apiculturists is conducting a survey this season to find out the economic significance of a relatively new brood disease in North America called chalkbrood.

Caused by a fungus, the disease has been known in Europe for many years, and is considered relatively unimportant. However, it is causing increasing concern to Canadian beekeepers.

According to Dr. Ulf Soehngen, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of apiculture, a number of beekeepers in this province have noted an increasing incidence of chalkbrood in their colonies.

The survey, decided upon at the last meeting of the Canadian Association of Apiculturists, is designed to answer such questions as 'Is the disease of economic significance to beekeepers?' and 'Should research be started immediately to find a way to control it?'

A portion of the hives of beekeepers who were selected at random have already been inspected, and another inspection will probably be carried out towards the end of June.

Dr. Soehngen says information collected from individual beekeepers will be confidential. However, when all the data has been processed and summarized, it will be published in the form of a report.

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June 16, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SUCCESSFUL FARM FISH POND

"I wouldn't be without it" is the way Eldon Christensen, a retired farmer in the Magrath area, expresses his opinion of his farm fish pond.

"It has brought hours of satisfaction," he says, "to myself and my friends. We have caught 3,875 rainbow trout since I built the pond." Incidentally, nobody who has fished in Mr. Christensen's pond has ever been charged for the privilege.

He built his pond in 1967 at a cost of about $700. It covers approximately two and a half acres, is 20 feet deep in the deepest part, and is kept full by water from a nearby irrigation ditch. About 10,000 rainbow trout, varying in length from two to four inches, have been put into the pond since it was built. Mr. Christensen gets the fish from various Canadian and American agents. The fish in the pond now range in size from one to 10 pounds.

The bountiful supply of fresh water shrimp in the pond provide an excellent source of food for the trout. According to Mr. Christensen, a 50-pound bag of fish feed lasts him about six months. He has installed an electrically-driven pond agitator, which cost in the neighborhood of $40, to help keep a small area of the pond free of ice during the winter.

It was quite difficult to catch the fish a year or so ago, but now they are easily caught. "The secret of good fishing," Mr. Christensen says, "is to have the pond slightly overstocked."

His three neighbors also have fish ponds, which in addition to giving them exciting recreational sport, provide them with many meals of tasty farm-raised trout.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS CLOSE JULY 1

Nominations are still welcomed for the 1975 Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Albertans who have made outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture may be nominated until the closing date of July 1.

The Hall of Fame is open to any Canadian citizen who has made a contribution to agriculture, either in Alberta or elsewhere in Canada. Inclusion in the Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed by Alberta Agriculture.

Nomination forms are available on request from J. R. Andrew, head of the Communications Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton. Supporting evidence of the candidate's achievements should accompany all nominations.

The 1975 Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame selection committee will be chaired by Dr. J. G. O'Donoghue, recently appointed deputy minister of agriculture. Also on the selection committee are three men and two women from different regions of Alberta, appointed for their agricultural backgrounds.

A candidate may be qualified for nomination to the Hall of Fame on the basis of either professional or voluntary involvement in agriculture, if the person has made outstanding contributions in his or her specialty. The selection committee will give preference to people closely associated with the practical aspects of agriculture, such as farmers and ranchers. However, agricultural businessmen and professional agrologists are also eligible for nomination.

Twenty-five outstanding Albertans have been named to the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame since its establishment in 1950. The five people accepted in 1974 were Winifred Ross, Carl J. Anderson, William H. Fairfield, Lalovee R. Jensen and Francis W. Maddock.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 23, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REVISED U. S. A. WHEAT AND SOYBEAN SITUATION

A continued weak demand, both domestically and internationally, has forced the United States department of agriculture (USDA) to make a fourth revision of supply and demand projections for the 1974-75 U. S. wheat and soybean crops.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing analyst, Peter Perkins, reports that these revisions are unfavorable from a price point of view. End-of-season carryovers for both crops have now been revised from the original estimates which were below last year's low levels to significantly above those levels.

"Reduced export demand," he says, "particularly since March, saw the USDA recently cut the projected 1974-75 wheat export figure by 50 million bushels to a level approximately nine per cent below that of 1973-74. Providing 80 million bushels can be cleared from U. S. ports in June, the lower estimate should be reached when the wheat marketing year ends on June 30."

Various revisions made to early projections have seen the estimate of end-of-season U. S. wheat stocks rise to 285 million bushels, 15 per cent greater than the position at the end of June last year. This situation indicates a marked shift away from original expectations of a slightly lower level of stocks at the end of the current year.

According to Mr. Perkins, current projections for the 1975-76 crop year, including a 1.6 billion bushel winter wheat crop now being harvested as far north as Kansas, make prospects for large wheat supplies and low prices appear imminent. U. S. officials are already pushing ahead with renewed export promotional schemes in the hopes of disposing of a good portion of the expected additional wheat supplies. However, the USDA still expects to see wheat stocks approach 490 million bushels by the end of June 1976 - - the highest level in three years.

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Revised U. S. A. Wheat and Soybean Situation (cont'd)

Mr. Perkins says the soybean situation is almost identical with that of wheat. The new supply-demand estimates indicate further declines in both domestic crushing rates and export business. U. S. crushers are now expected to use only 700 million bushels of the 1974-75 soybean crop, compared with the early estimate of 750 million bushels, and an actual 1974 crush of 821 million bushels. The export demand has been even softer with the USDA now predicting only 400 million bushels will have been exported when this marketing year ends on August 31. They originally figured on a 475 million bushels export level compared with 542 million bushels in 1973-74.

Mr. Perkins says "These revisions of the soybean demand have seen the projected 1974-75 carryover figure jump to 225 million bushels from 100 million bushels, which now puts the projected stock level for the end of this crop year 32 per cent higher than the 1974 level." The first estimate put it at 58 per cent below last year's level.

At this stage, expectations of a 1975 soybean harvest that is at least 20 per cent greater than that of last year, and an increase in demand of only seven per cent, makes the prospects of stocks climbing to 470 million bushels by August 1976 appear likely. Such stocks would be greater than any previous level and considerably higher than the record set in 1969.

"Developments in the new crop year," says Mr. Perkins, "will warrant close attention." The first factual indication of the 1975-76 U. S. crop will come with a June 30 report on acres planted to spring crops. This report will be followed on July 10 by an estimate of yields.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CREEPING RED FESCUE REPORT TABLED

Greatly increased emphasis on the production of certified creeping red fescue seed is one of the recommendations stressed in a report entitled "The Production and Marketing of Creeping Red Fescue Seed" that was recently tabled in the Alberta Legislature.

Prepared jointly by officials of Alberta Agriculture and the British Columbia department of agriculture, the report covers all the main aspects of fescue production and marketing in Canada and other countries of the world. Most of the creeping red fescue seed is used in turf and lawn mixtures.

The report recommends that fescue seed producers be encouraged to grow seed of a certifiable status and to maintain pedigreed seed of their own production. As an incentive the report suggests that producers receive a 50 per cent rebate on the cost of purchasing foundation seed and a 50 per cent rebate on the cost of field and seed inspection when their crop qualifies for the certified grade.

Although Canada produces 50 per cent of world creeping red fescue supplies, only about 5 per cent of this production is certified seed compared with almost all the seed produced by Denmark and the United States, the second and third largest seed producers. Almost all of Canada's fescue seed is grown in the Peace River region of Alberta.

One of the reasons for the urgency for Canadian creeping red fescue producers to grow certified seed instead of commercial seed is that the European Common Market, an important Canadian outlet, is expected to restrict its imports very soon to certified seed. At the present time Canada's trade with Japan is being hampered by that country's rigid disease freedom requirements.

Other recommendations in the report include the following:

- retention of the open market system of selling fescue seed and the establishment of a new system of disseminating market information.
- more applied research on foreign fescue varieties to determine their seed setting potential here.

- (cont'd) -

Creeping Red Fescue Report Tabled (cont'd)

. development of Canadian varieties suited to other countries.

. selection and research to obtain superior fescue varieties that will compete with Pennlawn as a lawn grass in coastal areas and with Boreal as a seed producer.

. inclusion of fescue seed under the crop insurance program.

. encouragement and support of both incoming and outgoing seed trade missions.

. establishment of a uniform system of marketing fescue seed in Alberta and British Columbia through the formation of a producer organization to represent the views and concerns of all creeping red fescue seed growers in the Peace River region.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILL C-41 STABILIZATION AND /OR SUBSIDY?

The Western Stabilization Act, now before committee following its second reading in the Commons, is designed to provide a mechanism that will smooth out annual net income fluctuations that so often beset Prairie grain farmers.

Alberta Agriculture's marketing analyst, Peter Perkins, says the new bill contains a strong undertone of subsidized income guarantee. It does not attempt any form of market (price) stabilization but offers more than simple income stabilization.

The Stabilization Fund is to be financed by grain producers and the federal government, with the latter contributing twice as much as that paid by farmers. Except for new grain growers and those who remain in the scheme for the first three years, participation is voluntary. Those who choose to participate will be required to pay 2 per cent of their gross receipts on the first $25,000 they receive in each calendar year from the sale of wheat, barley, oats, rye, flax and rapeseed. The levy will apply only to the sale of grain that is produced on land described in a permit book and sold through licensed elevators and dealers.

Levies must be paid each year regardless of whether stabilization payments are likely or not. Levy payments are tax deductible in the year in which they are paid, but payments from the Stabilization Fund will be taxable.

Payments will be made to participating growers if their net income receipts from the production and sale of grain in any given calendar year are more than one per cent below the average of annual net receipts for the previous five years. An individual's share of these payments will be determined by his net contribution to the fund over the previous three years.

Since the plan operates on a calendar rather than on a crop year basis, it is not exactly clear how payments from the wheat board will be handled, but at least payments from the fund can coincide with spring seeding rather than fall harvesting.

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Bill C-41 Stabilization and/or Subisdy? (cont'd)

Mr. Perkins believes that the plan will be most valuable to the smaller producer because the maximum levy payable will not usually be greater than $500 and, although not specified, the maximum stabilization payment in any given year is unlikely to be greater than $1,600.

He thinks the plan should appeal to provincial governments and Western Canadian grain producers because it will provide federal government assistance in periods of depressed incomes. "It has more appeal," he says, "as a potential subsidy program than as a stabilizing plan. It also appeals from the point of view of at least offering some insurance against rising production costs which are well covered in the scheme."

However, the federal government has taken some provisions against the plan becoming a complete subsidy program. Stabilization payments will be reduced by 10 per cent and the levy on grain sales increased to two and a half per cent if, after a number of years, the Stabilization Fund is in deficit to the extent that interest on loans to the fund is more than a third greater than net producer payments over the last three years. If, on the other hand, a sufficient surplus is built up, the levy will be reduced to one and a half per cent.

Bill C-41 therefore provides a small measure of income stability to the grain industry. However, since it is a general plan offering aggregate coverage for the entire Canadian Wheat Board area, it does not provide a guarantee to an individual farmer in a particular year. Mr. Perkins says "Although individual regional income fluctuations are not taken into account in the plan, crop insurance should provide reasonable protection against such difficulties."

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June 23, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAKING HIGH QUALITY HAY

Early cutting is one of the secrets used by good forage managers to get more value from their hay land, an important consideration this year in view of a likely hay shortage.

Early harvesting has many advantages. First, the protein content of hay cut when the legumes are about 10 per cent in bloom, or just after grasses have been headed out, is two to four per cent higher than hay cut after it has bloomed. Not only is there a higher protein content, but the digestibility of the feed, including the protein, is higher. Ross Gould, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler, reports that research in Wisconsin has shown that the digestibility of bromegrass cut when heading out is 64 per cent compared with 56 for grass harvested when the seed is starting to form.

Unfortunately, the success of a hay crop is too often judged on the number of pounds produced. According to Mr. Gould, research has shown that milk and meat production obtained from a given volume of hay can vary by as much as 100 per cent or more.

One of the problems in obtaining the maximum production from a ration containing roughage is to get the animals to eat enough of the hay or silage. "It is here," says Mr. Gould, "that the digestibility of the roughage is so important. Milk cows and feeder steers simply will not eat enough hay that is low in digestibility to reach their production potential. They do not get as hungry because the poor quality hay takes longer to digest in the rumen. The result is a reduction in total feed intake and lower performance. It is also quite likely that the poor quality hay does not taste as good as good quality hay."

The higher protein content of early cut hay can improve production and save money. Rations for dairy cows and young dairy and beef cattle call for a higher protein level than can be obtained from a combination of average grain and poor quality hay. The higher the protein content of hay, the less will be needed to provide adequate protein.

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Making High Quality Hay (cont'd)

Some people argue that there really is not much point in trying to harvest a high quality hay for a herd of beef cows because they need only seven to 7.5 per cent protein in the ration. Most hay, even when cut in the mature stage, will provide that much protein. Mr. Gould points out, however, that it would be possible to use a great deal more straw in the winter ration if the hay contained 11 per cent protein instead of only seven or eight per cent.

If, for example, the hay contained only eight per cent protein and the straw contained four per cent protein, it would be necessary to feed 16 pounds of hay and four pounds of straw to obtain a ration with an average of seven per cent protein. If, on the other hand, hay containing 11 per cent protein were available, only 8.6 pounds of hay and 11.4 pounds of straw would provide a ration with an average of seven per cent protein.

Another example might be a 50-acre field of mixed hay which produced 1.1 tons of hay per acre when cut at the 10 per cent bloom stage and 1.3 tons per acre when harvested just after the full bloom stage. If it was cut at the 10 per cent bloom stage, it would produce enough hay when mixed with straw to winter 64 cows, but it would provide only enough hay to winter 41 cows if it was cut after the bloom stage. More hay would have to be fed per cow to supply the required protein level.

An added bonus to cutting hay early in the season is the good possibility of a second cut later in the summer. This second cut is usually of higher quality than the first cut. If the first cutting is allowed to mature until mid-July, there will be little chance of harvesting a second crop without reducing the legume stand the following year.

The main argument against cutting hay early is that the yield from the first cut is lower in tonnage than that from a later cutting. However, the advantages include a higher protein content, a higher digestibility level, greater feeding efficiency per ton and per acre and an extra cutting of high quality hay.

June 23, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POTATO PLANTING PERMITS REQUIRED

Did you know that regardless of where you live in Alberta, you need a permit if you have planted more than an acre of potatoes? The potatoes will then be inspected for disease during the summer.

The regulation making a permit mandatory came into force this spring. It is designed to eradicate bacterial ring rot which could eliminate the potato industry in this province if it is not checked.

Under previous regulations planting permits were issued only to growers in the immediate vicinity of Edmonton and Calgary and in the irrigation districts of southern Alberta.

If you have not already got your permit, you should contact Dr. Jack Horricks, Plant Industry Division, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton. T5K 2C8. Be sure to give the land description of the plot.

Two other regulations that came into force this spring state that nobody can import seed potatoes into Alberta without first obtaining permission to do so; and that potato dealers must obtain permission to sell pedigreed seed in Alberta.

Another change in the regulations states that Alberta potato growers no longer require a permit to sell healthy potatoes in the province.

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June 23, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BEEKEEPERS COMMISSION

The Alberta Beekeepers Commission, at their first meeting, elected Franklin E. Butz of Spruce Grove as chairman anf Edward Martens of La Crete as vice-chairman.

The other members are Gerard Paradis of Falher, Gerard Hachey of Falher and Dale Philpott of Brooks.

The commission was appointed by Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin E. Moore, in April of this year, and the present members will serve on a provisional basis for 12 months. After that new members will be elected by the beekeepers at a general meeting.

At the commission's first meeting, Mr. Moore stressed the importance of the beekeeping industry to agriculture and to the general economy of Alberta. He also promised to make funds available to the commission to assist them in their endeavours.

Under the commission beekeepers who operate 150 or more hives will be assessed a levy on their honey production. The funds collected will be used to initiate and conduct research and development projects.

At the present time the commission is drafting regulations and will be establishing a liaison with governmental and research agencies. These new regulations will enable Alberta beekeepers to determine the nature of research they want undertaken, to establish priorities and to co-operate with government agencies and research bodies. The ultimate goal is to make beekeeping in this province an even more viable industry.

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AGRI-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREE INSECT INFESTATIONS REPORTED

Alberta Agriculture has received numerous requests for information on controlling a number of insect species that are infesting trees and shrubs throughout a large part of the province.

The species causing the most concern appear to be forest tent caterpillars, aphids, yellow-headed spruce sawflies and spruce weevils. Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist, says forest tent caterpillars, aphids and yellow-headed spruce sawflies can be controlled with Diazinon, Cygon and Malathion in accordance with the manufacturers' directions. Cygon is probably the best one to use for aphid control. Unfortunately, there is still no insecticide registered for controlling the spruce weevil.

Forest tent caterpillar

The larvae of this insect has a blueish-purple, hairy body, with a row of creamy-white key-hole-shaped markings down the back. They are about one and a half inches long when fully grown. The larvae eat the leaves of most deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves) and are first found in web-like clusters. As they mature they move farther afield. If they are present in sufficient numbers they may completely defoliate the trees or shrubs on which they feed. Although the larvae seldom kill the trees or shrubs, a severe infestation can retard their growth.

Aphids

Aphids are very small, soft-bodied insects (any color) which suck the sap from the foliage of both deciduous and spruce trees. Often the leaves of deciduous trees curl up or wilt after developing grey spots. The needles on the spruce trees dry out and turn brown. Most trees and shrubs can support a farily large number of aphids without being damaged. It is better not to spray unless really necessary because the spray will kill many of the natural enemies of aphids. However, if aphid infestations are very heavy , they can weaken the tree.

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Tree Insect Infestations Reported (cont'd)

The larvae of this insect, which has a smooth, olive green, glossy body and a redish-yellow head, attack spruce trees. They are about three-quarters of an inch long when mature. When first hatched the larvae are found in clusters around the new growth on the spruce tree. As the new needles are devoured and the larvae grow, they move into the tree and feed on the older growth. Unless controlled, they will eventually denude the tree and cause it to die.

Spruce Weevils

The larvae hatch from eggs laid at the base of the leader (main top shoot of the stem or trunk) of spruce trees. They are almost impossible to see because they burrow inside the leader, causing it to die before the next season. The only thing that can be done is to cut off the leader. It should be cut off as soon as the tip starts to turn brown and the lateral branches immediately below it start to turn brown and curl downwards like a shepherd's crook. Removing and burning the leader will help to prevent the larvae from maturing and laying more eggs the following year.

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June 23, 1975
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE DOLLARS AND SENSE OF FARM MACHINERY MANAGEMENT

Costs are the key to the profit-making equation of farm machinery. Farm machinery can be either a sound investment or a heavy expense, depending upon the care that is given to its selection and its use.

Ron Woolf, Alberta Agriculture's farm management counsellor at Olds, reports a recent study conducted by the farm management branch in the Olds area showed that machinery ownership and operating expenses accounted for 20 to 25 per cent of the total costs of all expenses incurred. "With current credit charges, soaring replacement costs and the rapid outdating of design, it is not surprising that interest and depreciation account for about two-thirds of total machinery costs," he says. Since the capital tied up in farm machinery often represents 20 per cent or more of the total farm business investment, controlling machinery costs can be a very profitable venture.

Farm machinery decisions hinge around such things as whether to buy or to hire, whether to buy a new or a used machine, whether to replace a piece of equipment now or later, and whether to invest more money in machinery to facilitate a quicker job or to invest less money and keep costs at a minimum.

To make a sound decision it is necessary to have a clear picture of the costs and advantages associated with each alternative. Mr. Woolf says Alberta Agriculture has available a set of worksheets which show step by step the main costs involved in owning and operating farm machinery.

There are also computerized machinery planning programs which analyze and report up to 16 different cost components associated with machinery buying, hiring, and replacement decisions. The information, based on the individual's specific situation, is reported back quickly and accurately through regional terminal links with the computer.

Further information on these planning aids can be obtained from your district agriculturist and from Alberta Agriculture's farm management branch exhibition at Progressive Farming Days, scheduled to take place at Olds College from June 24 to 26 inclusive.

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

June 23, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"OUTDOOR LIVING"

The ladies program for Progressive Farming Days, scheduled for June 24 - 26 at Olds College, will cover the 'food and fun' section of the '75 theme. It is called "Outdoor Living".

Displays in this section will include patio furniture and doors; farmstead fencing; small garden maintenance equipment; a swimming pool; boats and motors; barbecuing; food safety; farmstead landscaping and shrubs and unusual summer vegetables.

The following educational demonstrations will be featured every afternoon.

- Summer Cookery -- Alberta Agriculture's district home economists.
- Fashion Show -- Marg's Style Shop, Olds.
- Kitchen Storage -- Home Service Department, Calgary Power.
- Continuous Floral Demonstrations -- Olds College, horticultural department.
- Greenhouse Tours -- Olds College, horticultural department.

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June 23, 1975
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGROLOGISTS HONORED

D. Tracy Anderson, J. L. (Jack) Anderson and J. R. (Jim) McFall were honored by awards at the Alberta Institute of Agrologists annual meeting in Medicine Hat June 13. The three agrologists were recognized for their important contributions to agriculture in Alberta.

The distinguished agrologist awards recognize professional agrologists for professional distinction associated with outstanding accomplishments in agriculture in Alberta.

Tracy Anderson received a distinguished agrologist award for his research in increasing crop production by developing seeding and tillage practices that provide acceptable safeguards against the hazards of wind erosion. Mr. Anderson has been a research scientist at the Agriculture Canada Research Station at Lethbridge from 1946 until the present time. He trained as an agricultural engineer at the University of Saskatchewan

At the Lethbridge station he has carried out research on tillage and seeding principles related to the control of soil erosion by wind to increase crop production. His work was carried out in an area where high wind velocities strongly influence cropping practises. His studies have been of three areas; quantitative effects of trash cover, management of trash cover and soil, and effects of erosion of soil productivity and restorative amendment practices.

Mr. Anderson has co-operated with workers in other disciplines to provide information on aerial spraying with 2,4-D, economical systems for housing dairy cattle and mechanization of sugar beet production to reduce labor costs.

From February, 1971 to April. 1974 Mr. Anderson was a research advisor in India at the All-India Dryland Research Project at Hyderbad. While in India Mr. Anderson was responsible for the specifications and importation of Canadian farm machinery and other equipment and for their use by 24 co-operating centres (universities, state farms and institutions of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research). At each of these centres he was responsible for establishing an appropriate agricultural engineering program of research and development with the goal of increasing dryland crop production.

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Agrologists Honored (cont'd)

His concept of "lifesaving research", introduced at a planning seminar in 1972, is now recognized by the Indian Minister of Agriculture as a necessary approach to feeding India's people.

Jack Anderson, former district agriculturist at Medicine Hat from 1945 to 1974 also received a distinguished agrologist award. Mr. Anderson was very active in southern Alberta agriculture in irrigation development, the establishment of a vegetable industry and developing the beef cattle industry in the area. He worked very hard and extensively with 4-H clubs in the area attending at least one meeting of each club each year.

Mr. Anderson more or less initiated the auction concept of cattle selling in south-eastern Alberta. He promoted a feeding and slaughtering industry and promoted a vegetable industry. Jack Anderson has left a lasting mark in southern Alberta's agriculture.

In 1967 Mr. Anderson received the Centennial Medal in recognition of valuable service to the nation. In 1974 he was named "Mr. Agriculture in Southern Alberta" by Medicine Hat district residents.

James McFall received the professional recognition award presented by the Alberta Institute of Agrologists for his work with the institute. In 1946 he was appointed to the Professional Status Committee to solicit support for the Agrologists Act and was a charter member when the institute was incorporated in 1947. Mr. McFall was president of AIA from 1948 to 1950 and was executive secretary from 1967 to 1974.

From l945 to 1970 he was executive secretary of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture. In 1970 when AFA joined with the United Farmers of Alberta to become Unifarm he became secretary of the Unifarm commodity committees.

As provincial Farm Radio Forum secretary for Alberta Mr. McFall made a major contribution to the development and success of Canada's National Adult Education program which ran for a quarter of a century. The program, using the technique of read, listen, discuss, act, involved more than 250,000 Canadian farmers during its 25 year span.

Jim McFall assisted in the planning of the discussion topics aired on the program; acted as moderator for many regional and some national broadcasts; and his voice was well known in rural households all over Alberta over the 18 years he broadcast the opinions and views of Alberta Farm Radio Forum discussion groups.

June 23, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL HOME MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST APPOINTED

The director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, John Calpas, has appointed Jean Wilson to the position of regional home management specialist for Calgary and southern districts. She replaces Shirely Myers who was appointed to Alberta Agriculture's policy and liaison secretariat last year.

Miss Wilson's fields of specialization include family finances and consumer education. Family finances covers budgeting, wills, estate planning, record keeping and money management. Consumer education involves interpreting consumer law, working with the department of consumer affairs (Alberta) and the federal department of consumer and corporate affairs in Calgary.

Miss Wilson will work with the provincial home management specialist, Pat Mascaluk, on developing teaching materials. She will also help district home economists in the Calgary area with their regional programs.

Born in Edmonton, Miss Wilson graduated from the University of Alberta in 1970 with a B. Sc. in home economics. She then attended the University of California on a teaching scholarship, graduating in 1973 with a M. S. in consumer science. Following graduation she was appointed to the faculty of home economics at the University of British Columbia where she taught courses related to consumer problems, consumer education, management and housing.

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EDMONTON, ALBERTA

June 30, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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AGRI-NEWS

June 30, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD SCIENTISTS EXPRESS OPTIMISM ABOUT NATIVE FRUIT PROCESSING

Native Alberta fruits such as rosehips and saskatoons can definitely be processed into salable products.

This conclusion was expressed by Giuseppe Mazza, a food scientist working on native fruit processing at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks. "There is no doubt in my mind," he says, "that with proper facilities, commercially produced native fruit products can compete with some of the best apricot, apple and cherry products on the market today." However, more research needs to be done before commercial processing becomes economically feasible. Research done to date has been preliminary in nature.

Several formulas were developed last winter for making rosehips into jelly-like products which proved very successful from the point of view of flavor and nutritional value (rosehips are very high in vitamin C). Other rosehips were dried in preparation for making into wine and wine base materials for amateur wine makers.

The main problem encountered in processing rosehips and chokecherries, has been separating the pulp from the rest of the berry. The chokecherries were difficult to work with because available fruit is very small and has very little pulp. In the case of the rosehips only about 16 per cent of the cleaned berries is retained in the final product.

A rough economic calculation showed that the cost of the raw materials for rosehip jelly works out to approximately 10¢ per 2-ounce jar. The total processing costs, including labor and packaging, came to around 12¢ or 13¢ a 2-ounce jar.

Saskatoons have also been successfully processed into jelly, wine and wine base materials, but so far extracting the juice from the berries has proved difficult.

Although various methods have been tried, the juice yield is still only 40 to 50 per cent of the berry, depending upon the treatment. A weak flavor in the jelly was another problem experienced last winter, but it may have been due to the berries having been frozen for over six months.

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Food Scientists Express Optimism About Native Fruit Processing (cont'd)

Experiments are now in progress to come up with good wine and wine base formulas from saskatoons. In Mr. Mazza's opinion this is where the greatest potential for native fruits, particularly saskatoons, lies. "Wine companies," he says, "are interested and willing to market good saskatoon wine.

"The chances of capturing a share of the wine base market, presently held by such European products as dried rosehips from Portugal, dried elderberries from Yugoslavia and loganberries from Ireland, are extremely promising. Although this market is small, it is very attractive."

Other areas of native fruit processing which the scientists will be looking at include dehydration, canning and perhaps juice concentrates. Some saskatoons have already been dried with the idea that they could be used as substitutes for grape raisins. This outlet for saskatoons also appears very promising.

Research on flavor isolates is now underway at Alberta Agriculture's food laboratory in Edmonton. Here the scientists are investigating the potential use of native fruits for flavoring such products as ice cream, sherbet, yoghurt and soft drinks. They are also looking at the possibility of using native fruits for pie fillings, syrups and even pharmaceutical products.

Mr. Mazza does not see any serious problems connected with the commercial production of native fruit products. However, he feels there is a need to get enough trees into production that will produce a high quality, good sized fruit; to evolve an economical harvesting technique and to develop markets for native fruit products. As far as processing is concerned, he does not see any problems that cannot be overcome.

AGRI-NEWS

June 30, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOTAL MILK PRODUCTION VERSUS BUTTERFAT LEVEL

Under today's marketing conditions, it is not economical to sacrifice production for butterfat level, says D. Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Red Deer.

A decrease in butterfat levels is common when cattle are first turned onto lush pastures because these pastures are low in fibre. Supplementing the pasture with hay and mixing more oats in the concentrate will increase the fibre. However, higher fibre rations are usually lower in energy than rations with less fibre, with the result that they often reduce milk production. The problem is to get more fibre into the ration without reducing milk production.

The following table compares the effect of total milk production and the level of butterfat on gross returns per cow per day.

Butter fat Test (%)

2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5
3.00	3.03	3.06	3.09	3.12	3.15	3.18	3.21	3.24	3.27	3.30	3.33	3.36	3.39	3.42	3.45	3.48	3.51	3.54	3.57	3.60
3.50	3.54	3.57	3.61	3.64	3.63	3.71	3.74	3.78	3.82	3.85	3.83	3.92	3.96	3.99	4.02	4.06	4.10	4.13	4.16	4.20
4.00	4.04	4.08	4.12	4.16	4.20	4.24	4.28	4.32	4.36	4.40	4.44	4.48	4.52	4.56	4.60	4.64	4.68	4.72	4.76	4.80
4.50	4.54	4.59	4.64	4.68	4.72	4.77	4.81	4.86	4.90	4.95	5.00	5.04	5.08	5.13	5.18	5.22	5.26	5.31	5.36	5.40
5.00	5.05	5.10	5.15	5.20	5.25	5.30	5.35	5.40	5.45	5.50	5.55	5.60	5.65	5.70	5.75	5.80	5.85	5.90	5.95	6.00
5.50	5.56	5.61	5.66	5.72	5.78	5.83	5.88	5.94	6.00	6.05	6.10	6.16	6.22	6.27	6.32	6.38	6.44	6.49	6.54	6.60
6.00	6.06	6.12	6.18	6.24	6.30	6.36	6.42	6.48	6.54	6.60	6.66	6.72	6.78	6.84	6.90	6.96	7.02	7.08	7.14	7.20

*100 lbs. of milk testing 3.5% B.F. worth $11.00
and for each 1/10% change in B.F. change price by 10¢

- (cont'd) -

Total Milk Production Versus Butterfat Level (cont'd)

In the table, 100 pounds of 3.5 per cent milk is worth $11, while each change of 1/10 per cent of butterfat is equal to 10 ¢. Hence, the gross return per cow per day for a herd that is averaging 30 pounds of four per cent milk per day is $3.45. If, by a change in the feeding program, milk production is increased to 35 pounds, the butterfat test would have to drop below 2.5 per cent before the gross return per cow would drop below $3.45 per cow per day.

What about costs? Does it cost more to produce 35 pounds of three per cent milk than it does to produce 30 pounds of four per cent milk? When hay costs $40 per ton; barley, $2 a bushel and a 32 per cent supplement, $160 a ton; feed costs for both situations are the same. In other words, it takes just as much feed to produce 30 pounds of four per cent milk as it does to produce 35 pounds of three per cent milk.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FODDER RESERVES AND DEHYDRATION PLANTS

Government sponsorship of alfalfa dehydrating (dehy) plants in Alberta seems to be paying off!

Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, reports that domestic livestock consumption of processed alfalfa cubes and pellets has doubled over the last year, indicating the feasibility of using these products on the farm.

"Even more important," he says, "is that these products can be stored for emergency use."

In May of this year one southern Alberta dehy plant alone sold over 3,000 tons of cubes to local cattlemen whose herds had been caught in the late spring storms. At the height of one of these storms as many as 30 trucks were lined up at another plant. Impassable roads to field hay stacks and a scarcity of forage brought farmers from far and wide to stock up on cubes and pellets.

"Had it not been for readily accessible stored feed," says Mr. Gareau, "substantial cattle losses would, undoubtedly, have occured. As it was, very few cattle died during these unseasonable storms, thanks to the excellent service provided by the management of southern Alberta's alfalfa dehy plants."

Mr. Gareau points out, however, that it would be folly for cattlemen in this province to depend upon our dehy plants for their reserve fodder supplies. It will be a long time before the bulk of forage used in Alberta is processed through these plants.

"Let us face facts realistically," says Mr. Gareau, "processing plants can salvage more feed value per acre, and can be a tremendous asset to the cattle industry here, but in the final analysis, the only insurance against a forage shortage is individually stored forage. Unused feed that is properly protected against the weather may appear expensive, but it is a very sound investment in the long run!"

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June 30, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SELF-TREATING DEVICES FOR FLY CONTROL ON CATTLE

Are you aware of the various restrictions connected with insecticides registered for use in self-treating devices for controlling flies on cattle?

The following table, submitted by Alberta Agriculture's entomologist and pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, lists the pesticides registered for use in self-treating devices to control horn, house and stable flies on pastured and feedlot cattle. It also gives the restrictions for each product.

INSECTICIDE	BACKRUBBER MIXTURE	HORN FLIES	HOUSE FLIES	STABLE FLIES	RESTRICTIONS
Crotoxyphos-Dichlorvos (Ciovap)	Ready-to-use oil solution	X	X	X	Use on dairy and beef animals. No restrictions
Crotoxyphos (Ciodrin)	1 pt. 20% E.C. per 3 gal oil base.	X	X	X	Brahman cattle may be susceptible.
Malathion	Ready-to-use solution	X			Do not apply to calves under one month of age.
Ronnel (Korlan)	Mix 1 gal Korlan 24E with 21 gal oil.	X			No restrictions on beef or dairy animals.
Toxaphene	Mix 1 pt. 60% Conc. to 2 gal oil.	X			Beef cattle only. Do not treat within 4 weeks of slaughter. Do not use on calves under 3 months of age.

X - registered for control of these insects
E. C. - emulsifiable concentrate
E. - emulsion

- (cont'd) -

Self-Treating Devices for Fly Control on Cattle (cont'd)

Mr. Dolinski advises feedlot operators who have a rapid turnover of cattle not to use toxaphene in self-treating devices because of the 30-day 'wait' period that is required for this chemical. If the meat from a slaughtered animal is found to contain a toxaphene residue it will be confiscated and the vendor could be prosecuted. However, there is no problem with toxaphene used under range conditions where cattlemen know that the cattle will not be slaughtered within 30 days.

The other insecticides, as shown in the table above, have only minor restrictions and are, therefore, much more suitable for a feedlot situation.

Mineral oil is preferred to diesel oil as a carrier for all insecticides mentioned above. Diesel oil might cause some loss of hair and skin irritation. Used crankcase oil should never be used because it contains a variety of chemical contaminants, some of which are toxic to animals.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 30, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HORTICULTURAL SHOW DATES AND PLACES

Are you planning to attend your local horticultural show this summer?

In addition to supporting your local horticultural society, you will get new ideas and an opportunity to see what can be grown in your area. "Local horticultural societies are well worth supporting," says Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer, Arlene Chesney, "because they collect and disseminate the latest gardening information through public meetings."

Following is a list of the shows that will be held in Alberta this summer:

Show	Date	Place
Calgary Rose Show	July 18 & 19	North Hill Center
Plant Science Field Day	Tentative July 23	University of Alberta
Horticulture Week	August 4 - 8	Olds College
Ferintosh Horticulture Show	August 13	Village Hall
Marwayne	August 15	School
Bashaw Women's Institute	August 15	Not Known
Millarville	August 16	Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge & District Hort. Show	August 16 & 17	Exhibition Grounds
Caroline Horticultural Show	August 18	Not known
Wainwright Horticulture Show	August 20	High School
Dinton Women's Institute	August 20	Not known
Acme Horticulture Show	August 20	Memorial Hall
Ponoka Garden Club	August 20	Not known
Stony Plain Horticulture Show	August 21	High School
Red Deer Horticulture Show	August 21	Gaetz United Church
Edmonton Annual Show	August 21 & 22	Bonnie Doon Shop. Cen.
Carstairs	August 23	Arena
Vermilion Spring Garden Club	August 23	Pickardville Hall
Anglican & Presbyterian Churches Sylvan Lake	August 23	Presbyterian Church
Alix Horticulture Club	August 23	Mac School
Parkland Garden Club	August 23	Delburne Hall

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Alberta Horticultural Show Dates and Places (cont'd)

Show	Date	Place
Tofield Garden Club	August 23	Arena
Bear's Paw	August 23	Not known
Calgary Hosting the Provincial Horticulture Show	August 24 & 25	Kinsmen Center
Lacombe Horticulture Show	August 26	Memorial Center
High River Horticulture Show	August 26	Memorial Center
Red Deer River Garden Club	August 27	Rumsey Community Hall
Alberta Horticultural Research Center Field Day	August 29	Brooks
Elnora Community Council	August 31	Community Hall
Lily Field Day	End July	University of Alberta
Annual Field Day	Mid August	University of Alberta

For further information contact Arlene Chesney, Horticulture Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8

June 30, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA WOMEN'S WEEK

Alberta Women's Week will be held at three locations in the province this year -- Falher, Vermilion and Olds. The dates are July 14 to 18 for Falher and Vermilion and July 21 to 25 at Olds.

Alberta Women's Week is a recreational and an educational program for women -- it is a time of meeting and sharing with other women. It's fun. It's a chance to learn something new, to get away from everyday tasks and problems, and to grow!

Alberta Women's Week is open to women from towns and cities as well as from farms. You can attend on a daily basis or stay at the college residence for the week.

A creative children's program has been arranged for children up to 10 years old who accompany their mothers.

The program at Falher covers a large variety of subjects including international cookery and women's legal rights by Helena Fredland, a lawyer from Peace River. There will also be a talk by the past president of the Voice of Alberta Native Women's Society, a lecture on and participation in physical fitness and a talent show. The "Select a Session" part of the program is designed to give participants a chance to take a detailed look at a topic like effective parenting or the use of the metric system in the home. Each person will pick one topic and attend those sessions every afternoon.

The program formats at the Vermilion and Olds Women's Week are very similar to that of Falher. Among the program highlights at Vermilion will be such topics as "Women's Year and What You Can Do" by Betty Pedersen, past president of Unifarm and "The Total Women" by Vernis McCuaig of the Peggi Adams Modelling School in Edmonton.

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Alberta Women's Week (cont'd)

Topics that will be covered at Olds include "Women and the Law", by Alberta Agriculture's solicitor Cal Brandley; "Metrication" by Dr. Lindstedt, department of education consultant; "A Time for Change" by Mary Gusella, director of International Women's Year Secretariat; "The International Scene in Agriculture" , by Alberta's marketing commissioner, Harry Hargrave and a discussion on "Why Does Food Cost So Much".

The costs involved in attending Women's Week at Falher, Vermilion or Olds are $30 per person for participants who want board and room at the colleges; $10 plus meals for day attendants and $5 per child attending the children's program. The limit here is two children per person.

For further information and program details contact your local district home economist or the home economics extension service of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton or Calgary.

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June 30, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO ADC'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Marvin E. Moore, has announced the appointment of two new members to the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) board of directors. They are Oliver Noel of St. Linda and Gerald Gunby of Debolt.

The other members are Ken Danyluk of Andrew; Jim Elliott of Fairview; Walter McNary, former director of Alberta Agriculture's family farm division; Lorne C. Ordze of Camrose, who is chairman of the board; Gloria Paquette of Picardville; N. F. William Picard of the department of industry and commerce in Edmonton; Jack Romeo of Barrhead; and G. Kay Watson of Eckville.

The ADC board of directors is responsible for making by-laws in regard to the corporation's general conduct of business and for approving or rejecting all loans in excess of $100,000 that are processed by the corporation. The board of directors also makes all decisions required on loans that have been rejected by the ADC farm loans section when the decision has been appealed through the local agricultural development committee.

Mr. Noel was born and raised in the St. Paul area. He served in the RCAF for two years, after which he farmed with his father until 1956. He then opened an automobile repair and body work shop in St. Paul which he ran for four years. He also operated a feed and seed mill in St. Paul for a year and a feed and seed mill in Josephburg.

Mr. Noel moved to St. Lina in 1961 where he farmed until 1972. He was rural electrification association director for three years and a member of the local agricultural development committee for the last two years. In 1974 he was elected to the county council.

Mr. Gunby was born in Innisfail but moved as a small child to Debolt where he was raised on a mixed farm. After completing high school in Grande Prairie, he took up farming in the Debolt area. He presently farms four sections with his son-in-law. As a hog producer and registered seed grower, he grows grains, oil seeds and forage seeds.

(cont'd)

wo New Members Appointed to ADC's Board of Directors (cont'd)

In the past Mr. Gunby spent several years as a delegate to the Alberta Hog roducers' Marketing Board for improvement district 16. In addition to being a member of umerous farm and co-operative associations, he is presently a member of the East Smoky ecreation Board and the East Smoky Minor Hockey Association and a director of the ebolt Country Club.

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AGRI-NEWS

June 30, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POULTRY SPECIALIST APPOINTED TO CALGARY AREA

The director of Alberta Agriculture's animal industry division, W. C. Gordon, has announced the appointment of Jim Mangat to the position of poultry specialist at Calgary.

Mr. Mangat will be responsible for poultry branch administration in the Calgary area and for economic studies, health programs and poultry extension.

He was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and attended Nottingham University in England, graduating in 1971 with a B.S.A. While at university he worked for Shaver and Babcock poultry organizations in England. Following graduation he was employed by the same firm in Sweden until 1972 when he emigrated to Ontario. Here he spent three years as poultry serviceman with Swift Canadian Co. Ltd., covering all of Ontario.

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July 7, 1975

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July 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIXING HERBICIDES

Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch has received a large number of requests for information on mixing herbicides.

Arnold Stearman of the weed control branch says it is possible to mix some chemicals, but that unless mixing them is specifically recommended on the product labels you are doing so at your own risk. No manufacturer's guarantee will apply unless you follow label directions.

Although herbicides are sometimes combined to eliminate a spraying operation, to control a wider spectrum of weeds, to reduce crop injury or even to reduce herbicide carryover in the soil, these mixtures do not always create a desirable interaction. In fact, it is possible that their effectiveness for controlling weeds may even be reduced. It appears, for example, that carbyne will not control wild oats if mixed with 2,4-D, MCPA or TCA.

Mr. Stearman stresses again that unless specified on the product label, weed control chemicals should not be combined. Providing the mixture is recommended on the label, the manufacturer will accept responsibility for the results. On the other hand, if you use a mixture that is not specifically recommended, you must be prepared to accept responsibility for the results.

Mixtures Recommended by Chemical Manufacturers

- linuron with MCPA or 2,4-D (amine or ester formulation)
- dicamba with mecoprop and 2,4-D (a registered mixture - Banvel 3)
- dicamba with MCPA or 2,4-D
- Asulox F with MCPA
- Asulox F with Brominal M or Buctril M
- TCA with 2,4-D or MCPA
- dalapon with 2,4-D or MCPA
- Avenge with 2,4-D or MCPA

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Mixing Herbicides (cont'd)

Physical Characteristics That Are Usually Compatible

- emulsifiable concentrates may or may not mix with ester formulations
- soluble powders usually mix with solutions
- wettable powders usually mix with solutions

Recommended Procedure to Make up a Tank Mixture

- mix one product and fill spray tank to 80 per cent capacity
- add the second product while operating the agitator
- then fill tank to capacity
- spray out the entire mixture before discontinuing sprays to prevent possible precipitating out of the chemicals.

The following chart shows the physical compatibility of the herbicides listed. However, the fact that these mixtures are shown on the chart MUST NOT be taken to mean that they are recommended by Alberta Agriculture. In some cases they may cause crop injury.

	Atrazine	Alachlor	Asulam	Bromoxynil + MCPA	Carbyne	2.4-D	MCPA	2.4-DB	MCPB	2.4-DP	2.4.5-T	Chlorbromuron	Cyprazine	Dalapon	Dicamba	Diuron	Karbutilate	Linuron	Monolinuron	Monuron	Naptalam	Niclofen	Paraquat	Picloram	Pyrazolium	Simazine	TCA	Tebuthiuron	Surfactant
Atrazine	X	Y			NO								NO			Y	Y			Y		NO	Y			Y			
Alachlor	Y	X			NO								NO									NO							
Asulam			X	Y	NO	NO	Y						NO									NO							
Bromoxynil + MCPA			Y	X	NO								NO									NO			Y				NO
Carbyne	NO	NO	NO	NO	X	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
2.4-D			NO		NO	X				Y	Y		NO	Y	Y		Y	Y				NO	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	
MCPA			Y		NO		X						NO	Y				Y				NO		Y	Y		Y		
2.4-DB					NO	Y		X					NO	Y								NO							
MCPB					NO				X				NO	Y								NO					Y		
2.4-DP					NO	Y				X			NO									NO							
2.4.5-T					NO	Y					X		NO				Y					NO	Y	Y			Y		
Chlorbromuron					NO							X	NO									NO							NO
Cyprazine	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	X	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Dalapon			NO		NO	Y	Y	Y	Y				NO	X								NO						Y	
Dicamba					NO	Y							NO		X							NO			Y				
Diuron	Y				NO	Y							NO			X						NO	Y						
Karbutilate	Y				NO	Y					Y		NO				X					NO	Y						
Linuron					NO	Y	Y						NO					X				NO	Y			Y			
Monolinuron					NO								NO						X			NO							
Monuron	Y				NO								NO							X		NO	Y						
Naptalam					NO								NO								X	NO							
Niclofen	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	X	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	Y
Paraquat	Y				NO	Y					Y		NO			Y	Y	Y		Y		NO	X			Y		Y	Y
Picloram	Y				NO	Y	Y						NO			Y	Y			Y		NO		X		Y			
Pyrazolium				Y	NO	Y	Y	Y					NO		Y							NO			X				Y
Simazine	Y				NO	Y	Y						NO		Y	Y	Y	Y				NO	Y	Y		X			
TCA			NO		NO	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		NO									NO					X		
Tebuthiuron					NO	Y							NO	Y								NO	Y					X	
Surfactant				NO	NO								NO									Y	Y		Y				X

(cont'd)

Mixing Herbicides (cont'd)

Key to table

Y - Some formulations have been mixed
No - Do not mix
Blank - No information

Notes

- Certain formulations of herbicides may not be compatible.
- Always make up a small quantity of the mixture first and leave it to stand for 30 minutes to check for compatibility. Look for separation of materials, jelling, coagulating or "gunking out".
- Check the label to be sure that mixing the formulations you are using is not specifically forbidden.
- Remember - unless the mixture is on the label no guarantee as to crop safety or efficacy will apply.

July 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEEDLING ROOT ROT IN RAPE CROPS

Serious damage caused by seedling root rot has been found in a number of rape crops throughout Alberta.

The soil-borne fungus damages flax and legume crops fairly frequently, but this is the first time it has seriously affected rape seedlings.

Drs. Jack Horricks and Ieuan Evans, plant pathologists with Alberta Agriculture, report rape stands in one-sixth of the fields inspected had been reduced by more than 50 per cent.

Nothing can be done this season to remedy the situation. However, rapeseed growers covered by the Alberta All-Risk Crop Insurance Program are eligible for compensation.

A long period of cold, dry weather, as experienced in Alberta this spring, favors the development of this root rot, it is believed. Although present every year, it has not caused economic damage in past years to rape seedlings. However, there has been the odd year when it has severely reduced rapeseed yields in the fall.

"It appears root rot is more severe in rape crops sown too deeply and sown in loose soil," says Dr. Horricks. "The best precautions for the future are to seed the rape as shallowly as possible in a firm seedbed and avoid planting it in a field planted to rape, flax or a legume crop the previous year. Treating the seed with a fungicide is also thought to be beneficial."

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July 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A COMPOST HEAP SAVES MONEY

Have you thought of saving fertilizer dollars by making a compost heap this summer? You can make it as big or as small as you like.

Arlene Chesney, Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer, says a compost heap can be ready to use in three months if you fork over the pile about every two weeks.

To make your compost heap you put a six inch layer of organic matter -- vegetable tops and peelings, grass clippings, weeds, coffee grounds, tea bags, wood ashes, paper, etc. -- on the ground and cover it with six inches of soil. Repeat this procedure until the pile reaches the top of the container. Make the outside edges of the pile a little higher than the centre so that it will catch the rain water. You can contain your compost pile in a box type structure, chicken wire wraped around four corner stakes or even in an old garbage pail.

The addition of a small amount of chemical fertilizer to each layer of organic material will hasten the rotting process in your compost heap.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT BY ORDERING TREES EARLY

To avoid disappointment order your government shelterbelt trees for next year's planting now, advises Herman Oosterhuis, who is in charge of Alberta Agriculture's tree planting program.

For over 20 years Alberta Agriculture has been supplying shelterbelt trees to farmers in this province, and in recent years acreage holders have also been eligible for these trees. However, according to Mr. Oosterhuis, the demand has outstripped the supply in the last two years and the same situation is expected to prevail again this year.

Among the reasons for these tree shortages are poor tree growth at the tree nursery at Oliver and the fact that the nursery now has to fill orders for several other government agencies. Twenty years ago the nursery's total production was geared to supply only the farm tree planting program. Another cause of the present shortage is the continually increasing demand for shelterbelt trees resulting from greater awareness of the program and the increasing number of acreage holders.

Last year, because of the shortage of trees, each applicant was restricted in the number of trees he could order, and the same restriction will apply again this year. However, as in the past, applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Unfortunately, there are no white spruce, Colorado spruce or lodgepole pine available this year, because the nursery stock is too small for transplanting.

The number of tree varieties available to acreage holders has been reduced this year in accordance with the government's policy concerning tree distribution. It states that farmers have first priority in the distribution of available supplies.

Mr. Oosterhuis stresses that in view of the above situation, shelterbelt planning, site preparation, proper planting and exact ordering are more important than ever this year. He reports that a tree survival survey, conducted by the horticultural branch last year in east-central Alberta, showed that a large percentage of trees are lost each year because people order more than they need and then plant them too close together.

(cont'd)

Avoid Disappointment by Ordering Trees Early (cont'd)

"To qualify for government shelterbelt trees for next year's planting, the site must be summerfallowed this year," Mr. Oosterhuis says. "Most of these proposed planting sites will be inspected before applications are accepted."

Further information on preparing next year's tree planting site, recommended tree spacings and a list of available tree varieties can be obtained from your local district agriculturist.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW INFORMATION ON BLOAT

Do you ever have bloat problems in your cattle?

The federal research station at Saskatoon has found that pasture bloat is more likely to occur when pastured forages, usually legumes such as clover and alfalfa, contain a high proportion of soluble proteins. These soluble proteins produce a thick rumen liquid which foams easily, causing bloat. The scientists at Saskatoon are now attempting to develop types of clover and alfalfa which are low in soluble proteins.

Last year research results published by the federal research station at Lethbridge showed that finely ground rations in feedlots were more likely to cause bloat than coarser feed.

Ross Gould, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler recently received a report by Dr. K. J. Cheng, a rumen microbiologist at the research station in Lethbridge, which, as Mr. Gould says, "adds another piece to the puzzle of bloat in ruminants". Following is the report.

"Bacteria play a vital role in the digestion of feed in ruminants such as cattle. By fermenting plant material in the rumen, the bacteria produce volatile fatty acids that the ruminants use as their chief energy source. Many of the other products of the fermentation, such as vitamins, proteins, and fatty acids, are also highly beneficial. Under some conditions, however, the bacteria may form slimes. These are wasteful of energy and may even be harmful by causing frothy bloat.

"We have found at Lethbridge that some bacteria in the rumen produce large amounts of highly viscous slime when cattle eat fine particle, high energy feeds. The gas from rumen fermentation becomes trapped in the slime and produces a frothy foam. We believe that this foam is the primary cause of feedlot bloat in cattle.

- (cont'd) -

New Information on Bloat (cont'd)

Waste of feed

" We have also found that the rumen bacteria may use 4 per cent more of the total digestible energy from the feed in the rumen to produce this slime. This energy is wasted, since, in most cases, the cattle cannot digest these slimes. This slime is made up of very large, complex organic molecules.

"Results of a recent study, using an electron microscope, showed that cattle fed fine particle, high energy feed tended to produce more bacteria of the type that produces large amounts of slime. Cattle that were fed hay also had bacteria that produced slimes in the rumen, but there were fewer than in cattle fed concentrate diets.

Silage a Solution?

"We found that little or no slime was produced by bacteria in the rumen of sheep fed corn silage. We assume that the same would be true in cattle. Therefore, silage fed with concentrate diets may help to prevent the formation of slime. In this way, both feedlot bloat and waste of energy should be reduced."

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July 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA BOAR BRINGS $1,200

Doug Milligan of Gadsby, Alberta, paid the top price of $1,200 for a Yorkshire boar at Alberta's first pork congress sale, held recently in Red Deer. The boar was entered by Stan Fulks of Waskatenau.

The average price paid for the 72 other boars and gilts, representing most breeds, was $288.

In the single barrow market class, consisting of 47 entries, first prize went to Doug Milligan. Stan Fulks took second place and George Matejka of Sylvan Lake took third.

The first place carcass scored 77 points out of a possible 100. It weighed 150 pounds dressed; had an average backfat depth of 1.1 inches; a loin eye area of 4.72 inches and an index of 109. The carcass sold for $300 to Cargill-Nutrena Feeds.

In the group market class, first place went to Stan Fulk's pen of five Yorkshires. Second place went to a pen of Hampshires exhibited by Jim Rock of Drumheller. Third place went to Steve Fedoretz of Smoky Lake who exhibited a pen of Lacombes.

In the judging competition, competitors placed 15 live barrows which were subsequently slaughtered and officially scored. First prize went to Alfred Wahl of Edmonton.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEWARE OF RABID SKUNKS AND BATS

If you see an apparently friendly skunk or a bat 'flopping' around on the ground, beware!

Although only one rabid skunk and two rabid bats have been found in Alberta this spring, compared with four skunks and three bats last spring, the danger of rabies is still with us.

The head of Alberta Agriculture's veterinary services division, Dr. H. N. Vance, urges parents to warn their children about rabid skunks and bats. A rabid skunk is particularly tempting to children because it appears tame and friendly. "Any kind of unusual behavior in a skunk, or a sick skunk, should be reported immediately to your closest fish and wildlife officer or federal health of animals branch veterinarian," Dr. Vance says.

The chances are very high that a bat seen during daylight hours is diseased. Normal bats are seen only in very subdued lighting. Dr. Vance says "If a bat is seen 'flopping' around on the ground in the daytime, it should be killed immediately and put into an enclosed container or a plastic bag. Then notify your nearest federal government veterinarian. To avoid the danger of being infected, never pick it up with your bare hands; either use gloves or sticks to put it into the container."

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July 7, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM SAFETY WEEK JULY 21-31

Heavy machinery presents the greatest hazard to farm safety, and studies indicate most farm accidents occur during the busy season, says the Alberta Safety Council.

Three periods of the day claim the majority of agricultural accidents: mid-morning, mid-afternoon, and night. The reason is straight-forward: many farmers work without a break, from breakfast to lunch, lunch to dinner, and dinner to bedtime. Long hours on the job may lead to monotony and inattention, a danger signal for anyone working with heavy power equipment. The likelihood of an accident is much greater during these periods of fatigue.

Other industries have made provisions for a break at the mid-point of each work period. A brief period of relaxation reduces fatigue, and adds to the worker's efficiency, says the safety council.

July 21 to 31 is Farm Safety Week 1975, an ideal time to start the safety habit. A short break isn't a luxury a farmer can't afford; it's an aid to greater efficiency and on-the-job safety.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VISITORS VIEW ALBERTA CATTLE BREEDING STOCK

The first group of potential buyers from Central and South America has visited Alberta at the invitation of the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA).

Representatives from Chile, Argentina, Mexico and Brazil, were guests of the recently-formed cattle association from July 2 to 10. The visitor's itinerary included trips to Alberta farms specializing in beef or dairy production, with time out for the Calgary Stampede.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Aristia of Santiago, Chile, are in the cattle feeding and citrus growing business. Mr. Aristia represents Chile's National Society of Agriculture.

Mr. Machado of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, breeds Holstein-Zebu crosses for cattle production. Mr. Machado, an agronomist, is primarily interested in Alberta's dairy breeding stock.

Dr. Rafael Martinez of Mexico represents the Regional Cattle Union of Jalisco, an organization of 35,000 members. Dr. Martinez, a lecturer in veterinary medicine at the University of Guadalajara, is arranging purchase of 30 beef animals: eight bulls and 22 cows. Dr. Martinez has been studying the Western Breeders' ova transplant operation at Balzac, and is involved in developing his university's cattle breeding program.

ACABA was formed in early 1975 to represent all cattle breed associations active in Alberta. Its purpose is to promote markets for Alberta beef and dairy animals and seed stock, to the benefit of both buyers and sellers.

"We hope through our new Alberta Canada All Breeds Association to host a number of delegations of buyers to Canada, and particularly to Alberta," says Ken Copithorne of Cochrane, president of the association.

"We'll show them the type of livestock we have, and hopefully through this, sales will result."

(cont'd)

VISITORS VIEW ALBERTA CATTLE BREEDING STOCK (cont'd)

"We felt we needed a concentrated effort for the best interests of the seed stock producers in this province, both now and in the future," Mr. Copithorne says. "We decided this could be looked after by an all breeds organization through which we could have more say in the way our cattle are represented and promoted for the world market."

Alberta Agriculture's marketing division is supporting ACABA's invitations to potential buyers.

"We support the association by giving as much help from department personnel as they request. Also there will be some financial support, as there is to any other breed organization in Alberta," says Alberta Agriculture commodity officer Vic Janssen.

"In the final analysis, marketing is a personal thing. These fellows are trying to establish personal contact with cattlemen in other countries. This is one of the best ways of doing it."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADVANTAGES OF A GARDEN MULCH

If you have problems with weeds and lack of moisture in your garden you might try a mulch, says Alberta Agriculture's horticultural liaison officer, Arlene Chesney.

Mulches, which can be either organic or inorganic, reduce soil evaporation, weed competition and soil temperature fluctuations which cause the soil to dry out rapidly. They also improve the water-holding capacity of the soil and promote faster development in garden plants.

Among the many materials that can be used for mulches are black plastic sheeting that is a half to one mill thick and bark chips. Since materials of this type are expensive, they are most suitable for special flowerbeds.

Organic materials like peat moss, leaves, grass clippings,straw and compost heap material are economical and easy to spread on the soil around the plants.

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July 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE DEMAND FOR PROPOLIS IS INCREASING

"Our main interest is to buy propolis from Canadian beekeepers. We do not know whether it is possible for beekeepers in Canada to sell this product".

This is an excerpt from a letter received from West Germany by Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of apiculture, Ulf Soehngen. The letter goes on to say that the writer has been buying propolis in West Germany for over three years and that the average price paid to beekeepers there is about $100 per kilo (2.2 pounds). The price for top quality propolis is 30% higher.

What is propolis? It is a resinous sap collected from trees by bees and used to seal off the cracks in their hives and to secure the edges of the honey frames. Interest in it has resulted from the many medical uses that have been found for propolis in recent years.

According to the 'British Bee Journal', the Russians appear to have achieved the greatest advances in the use of this product. In 1957 research workers in that country reported that propolis was more effective as a surface anaesthetic in ophthalmic treatment than procaine or cocain. It has been used as a dental anaesthetic in the Soviet Union since 1953, and was patented for inclusion in toothpaste in 1968.

"In 1968", says the 'British Bee Journal', "one learns that propolis was found to be a satisfactory remedy for internal disorders of the body such as gastric ulcers and a variety of similar conditions."

The demand for propolis is not only increasing in countries like the Soviet Union and Rumania but also in Japan, Denmark and Sweden where this product is claimed to be very efficacious in relieving a variety of conditions ranging all the way from gum infections to gastritis. Propolis is also widely used for treating chest and bronchial infections.

Because propolis is used for human medication great care must be taken when removing it from the hive. It must, for example, be picked over by hand and all the foreign matter (dead bees, wax particles, wooden splinters, moth larvae etc.) removed.

(cont'd)

The Demand for Propolis is Increasing (cont'd)

Care must also be taken when scraping propolis from painted bee hives. Paint contamination or flakes will make it unusable. In essence, propolis must always be gathered, sorted and stored under hygienic conditions.

Propolis is graded by particle size with the larger pieces receiving the top grade and the dust receiving the lowest grade.

Our West German correspondent says a large beekeeper can harvest 30 to 40 kg of propolis a year.

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AGRI·NEWS

July 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT SCIENCE FIELD DAY

Slide presentations on feed wheats, wild oats and horticulture crops will be featured at a plant science field day planned for July 23.

The University of Alberta's plant science department is hosting the annual event, starting at the Parkland Farm, 72 Avenue and 114 Street, Edmonton, with coffee at 10 a.m.

Dr. W. H. Vanden Born, chairman of the plant science department, will introduce guests to the program and purposes of the field day in his welcoming remarks at 10:15 a.m. Dr. J. P. Bowland, dean of the agriculture and forestry faculty, will also address the gathering.

Slide-illustrated presentations will be given in the forenoon. K. G. Briggs will present information on "Feed Wheats for Alberta", followed by P. A. O'Sullivan and Dr. Vanden Born speaking on ' Wild Oats' . E. W. Toop will deliver a lecture on 'Controlled Environment Studies in Horticultural Crops'.

Lunch will be available at 12 noon at Parkland Farm, or guests may provide their own.

Plot tours will be conducted from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Parkland Farm and Ellerslie Farm. In case of rain, indoor presentations will be given at Parkland Farm.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CANADA-ALBERTA NUTRITIVE PROCESSING ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT

Are you interested in establishing a processing plant in a rural Alberta community which would produce a product suitable for animal, plant or human food? Have you heard about the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement that came into effect this spring? It is designed to help people with this type of project.

The assistance is in the form of a grant covering up to a maximum of 35 per cent of the total capital that would be involved in the project. However, these grants will be paid only after commercial production has begun and there is a 20 per cent holdback for three years after the commencement of production. The applicant must be prepared to provide at least 20 per cent of the equity needed for the project.

Since the assistance is specifically directed towards rural development, it does not apply to proposed operations in the Edmonton or Calgary areas, nor does it apply to facilities that would be too large for the average rural community. Under certain circumstances plant moderation, relocation and expansion and the takeover of assets may be considered.

When an application is being assessed, the proposed project's contribution to the net farm income in the area, and its contribution to rural balance and local community strength will all be taken into account. Its competetive position and long-term viability are the other factors that will be evaluated.

The financial requirements of any proposed project will be thoroughly analyzed because the assistance provided under the federal-provincial agreement is not intended to encourage non-viable enterprises nor to aid those which do not require aid.

Anyone who thinks that he may qualify for one of these grants should send a short outline of his proposed project to either of the two departments listed below.

Department of Regional
Economic Expansion
10621 - 100 Avenue,
Edmonton, T5J 0B3

Alberta Agriculture
DREE Programs
9718 - 107 Street,
Edmonton, T5K 2C8

AGRI·NEWS

July 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COYOTE RESPONSE TO THE REMOVAL OF LIVESTOCK CARRION

The removal of livestock carrion (dead putrefying meat) during the winter in farming areas of Alberta would probably greatly reduce the need for other coyote control measures. Removal of the carrion evidentally does not cause an increase in the number of coyote raids on livestock.

These are the opinions of Arlen Todd, a graduate student of the University of Wisconsin, and Dr. Lloyd Keith of the same university's department of wildlife ecology, who recently completed a study to evaluate coyote population control by eliminating livestock carrion. The research was carried out during the winters of 1972-73 and 1973-74 in four townships near Westlock.

Two of the townships were used as controls, while 16 to 23 per cent of the carrion was removed from the other two. Most of the farmers who were asked to co-operate in the research by disposing of their carrion readily agreed to do so.

Analysis of population data for each winter showed a 73 to 81 per cent over-winter reduction in coyote density on the carrion-free areas campared with a reduction of only 38 to 71 per cent on the control areas. The study also showed that the coyote density on areas where the carrion had been removed was 12.4 per township compared with 19.0 on the control townships.

These differences in average densities were most striking from mid-winter to late spring when the ratio was 7.5 for the carrion-free areas compared with 7.1 for the control areas.

Another point brought out by the research was that the coyotes which remained on the carrion-free areas were consistently more widely dispersed than those on the control areas. Coyotes in agricultural areas have to range over large distances to seek out scattered sources of livestock carrion, which comprise about two-thirds of their winter diet.

- (cont'd) -

Coyote Response to the Removal of Livestock Carrion (cont'd)

Limited data compiled by Mr. Todd and Dr. Keith also suggest that coyotes migrate during the fall and early winter to marginal farming areas from their summer residences in the forested regions of the province.

Further information on this research can be obtained from Arlen Todd, Alberta Department of Recreation, Parks and Wildlife, Natural Resources Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

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CORRECTION

June 23, 1975, Agri News "Agrologist Honored" should have read:

James McFall was executive secretary of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture from 1945 to 1970. In 1970 when AFA joined with the Farmers' Union of Alberta to become Unifarm he became secretary of the Unifarm commodity committees.

The story previously read:

From 1945 to 1970 he was executive secretary of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture. In 1970 when AFA joined with the United Farmers of Alberta to become Unifarm he became secretary of the Unifarm commodity committees.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEP FIELD DAY AND RAM SALE

A field day for sheep breeders is scheduled for July 19 at the Hereford Centre in Innisfail.

A visit to Pioneer Ranch at Sundre will initiate the day's activities at 9 a.m. The sale of 40 purebred performance-tested rams of two breeds will be the highlight of the day at 1:30 p.m. at the Hereford Centre. The Suffolk and Hampshire rams were tested at Alberta's first record of performance sheep testing station, opened in April 1975 at the Calgary Stampede Grounds. The rams were tested by breed for rib-eye area, daily rate of gain, and backfat thickness.

Joe Buchanan of Cochrane will organize sheep dog trials, and wool handicrafts will be displayed and demonstrated.

A lamb barbecue at 4 p.m. will conclude the field day.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 14, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT DEPUTY MINISTER APPOINTED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, the Honorable Marvin Moore, has announced the appointment of Morley Douglas as assistant deputy minister in charge of production. Animal industry, plant industry, irrigation veterinary services and dairy divisions will be under his direction.

Mr. Douglas attended United College in Winnipeg from 1940 to 1941 and joined the Canadian Army in 1942. He graduated from the University of Manitoba with a BSA in 1949. During university, Mr. Douglas worked temporarily with the Manitoba agriculture department as an assistant district agriculturist. Following his graduation, he worked until 1953 as a 4-H Club Specialist. In 1953, he purchased a farm at Fairfax, Manitoba, and operated it until 1957.

Mr. Douglas has been with Alberta Agriculture since 1957, when he joined the department as district agriculturist in Vermilion. He transferred from Vermilion in 1966 to Lethbridge, where he remained one year. He was appointed regional agricultural co-ordinator for Calgary in 1967, and then regional director for Calgary the following year. He has held the position until the present.

Mr. Douglas completed a post-graduate diploma in education at the University of Saskatchewan in 1968, and attended the Banff School of Advanced Management in 1971. He and his wife Emily have two daughters and a son.

Mr. Douglas will take over his new position in Edmonton August 1.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 14, 1975

COMING AGRICULTURAL EVENTS

Klondike Days (Agricultural Exhibits and Livestock Shows) . . . . July 16-26
Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta

International Association of Milk Control Agencies . . . . July 21-26
Quebec City, Quebec

Department of Plant Science Field Day . . . . July 23
University of Alberta Parkland Farm, 72 Avenue & 114 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta

Grain Dryer Day . . . . July 30
Beaverlodge, Alberta

Canada Agricultural Manpower Committee . . . . August
Quebec City, Quebec

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited . . . . August 1-2
Edmonton Plaza, Edmonton, Alberta

International Association of Milk Food and Environmental Sanitarians -
62nd Annual Meeting . . . . August 10-13
Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario

Pacific National Exhibition . . . . August 16-September 1
Exhibition Park, Vancouver, B.C.

Canadian Botanical Association and Canadian Phytopathological Society
(combined) Annual Meetings . . . . August 18-21
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

8th International Plant Protection Congress . . . . August 21-27
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Provincial Horticultural Show . . . . August 24-25
Calgary, Alberta

Joint Annual Meetings of American Society of Agronomy, Crop and Soil
Science of America . . . . August 24-30
Knoxville, Tennessee

continued

Hanna Agricultural Fair Memorial Arena, Hanna, Alberta	August 27-28
Horticultural Field Day Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, Alberta	August 29
68th Agriculture and Food Industry Exhibition and Fair Budapest, Hungary	August 29-September 14
Fifth International Agriculture Congress Warwickshire, England	September 22-25
Feed Industry Conference Edmonton, Alberta	September 25 & 26
38th Canadian Hatching Federation Convention Calgary Inn, Calgary, Alberta	September 30-October 2
Agriculture Week Throughout Alberta	October 6-10
Women of Unifarm Annual Convention Summit Hotel, Calgary, Alberta	November 5-6
Alberta Beekeepers Association Annual Convention Calgary, Alberta	November 5-7
Farmfair 1975 Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta	November 6-15
Alberta Simmental Association Annual Meeting Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta	November 7
Sheep Symposium (U of A Extension) Red Deer, Alberta	November 12-14
Royal Agricultural Winter Fair The Coliseum, Exhibition Park, Toronto, Ontario	November 14-22
Canadian Honey Council Annual Convention Quebec	November
Canadian Simmental Association Annual Meeting Stampede Grounds, Calgary, Alberta	November 17-19
Saskatoon Winter Fair, Saskachimo Exposition Ltd., Administration Building, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	November 17-20

continued

Canadian Western Agribition Agribition Building, Exhibition Grounds, Regina, Saskatchewan	November 22-28
Cattlemen's Short Course (U of A Extension) Banff, Alberta	December 1-5
Unifarm Annual Convention Edmonton, Alberta	December 8-12
National Farmers Union Convention (Region 7) Edmonton, Alberta	December 8-12
Alberta Irrigation Projects Association Annual Meeting Lethbridge, Alberta	December 10

1976

Western Agricultural Conference Regina Inn, Regina, Saskatchewan	January 15-16
Alberta Pork Seminar (U of A Extension) Banff, Alberta	January 21-23
Alberta Dairymen's Association Annual Meeting Hotel Macdonald, Edmonton, Alberta	February 2-4
Canadian Federation of Agriculture Annual Meeting Hyatt Regency Hotel, Vancouver, B.C.	February 9-12
Agricultural Policy Issues Conference Banff, Alberta	February 22-27
Alberta Horticultural Association Annual Meeting Olds College, Olds, Alberta	March 5-6
Canadian Western Stock Show and Sale Exhibition Grounds, Edmonton, Alberta	March 20-27
Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs Charlottetown, P.E.I.	early June
Canadian Agricultural Extension Council Charlottetown, P.E.I.	June

continued

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage Banff, Alberta	June 5-12
American Co-op Educators Institute Banff, Alberta	June 17-20
Federated Women's Institute of Canada Annual Meeting University of P.E.I.	June 20-26
7th World Hereford Conference Banff, Alberta	June 28-July 2
Co-operative Union of Canada Annual Meeting Quebec City, Quebec	June 29-July 3
Agricultural Institute of Canada Annual Meeting Halifax, Nova Scotia	July 4-8
Canadian Federation of Agriculture Truro, Nova Scotia	July 23-25

NOTE:

This list will be issued quarterly to cover a period of 12 months following the date of issue.

We welcome your participation in making this list as complete as possible by submitting notification of events of provincial, national or international interest to the following office:

Communications Branch
Alberta Agriculture
1B Agriculture Building
9718 - 107 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2C8

AGRI·NEWS

AL.1.691

SEP 17 1975
CANADIANA

July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JAPANESE DAIRY SPECIALIST VISITS ALBERTA

The president of the Hokkaido College of Dairying in Sapporo, Japan, instrumental in establishing the Dairy Exchange Program, is in Alberta for a month-long visit.

Dr. Kogo Yusa has been active in the creation and operation of the program, which arranged its first exchanges of young Japanese and Alberta dairy farmers last summer.

Dr. Yusa arrived in Edmonton July 16 to begin his four weeks of travel throughout the province. His first week's activities included meetings with Alberta Minister of Agriculture Marvin E. Moore and former minister Dr. Hugh Horner, and visits to the University of Alberta agriculture department.

Dr. Yusa also found time to tour Fort Edmonton, visit Alberta Agriculture's Klondike Country Fair and the Alberta Game Farm, and take part in the Klondike Days promenade.

His second week is occupied with visits to Alberta dairy farming families acting as hosts for the young Japanese exchangees. Among them is Mrs. Norma Farris of Andrew, whose daughter Patricia is presently taking part in the exchange and is working on a Hoddaido dairy farm for 12 months.

C. A. Cheshire, director of Alberta Agriculture's extension branch, is accompanying Dr. Yusa on many of his visits.

"He's the first ranking member of the Dairy Exchange Committee who's been here since the program went into effect," says Mr. Cheshire.

"He's interested in the whole dairy situation in Alberta, but he's also interested in meeting with the host families taking part in the program."

-(cont'd)-

Japanese Dairy Specialist Visits Alberta (cont'd)

Seven Alberta dairy farms are now hosting exchangees, and two more young Japanese will be arriving later in the summer.

"To date, 15 young Japanese people have participated in the program. About half are graduates of the Hokkaido College of Dairying, where Dr. Yusa is president. Most have had some previous dairy experience, and all are from the island of Hokkaido."

Following his visits to host farms, Dr. Yusa will travel to the Olds Agricultural College, the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, at Brooks, and several other dairy farming areas of the province. He will visit Banff and Jasper before returning to Sapporo August 12.

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July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRAWBERRY WEEDERS

Do you know that geese make excellent strawberry weeders? They are also reported to have been successfully used to weed raspberries, blueberries, grapes and tobacco.

A news release received by Alberta Agriculture from the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing says geese do a better job of weeding strawberries than people do---and they are cheaper!

Good management is apparently the secret to getting a good job done. The Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Marketing suggests using 30-inch high poultry netting to keep the geese in the area. There are also reports of geese being successfully confined with an electric fence. It seems that all that is needed is a single wire eight or nine inches high - it keeps the geese in and prevents dogs and other animals from disturbing them.

The Nova Scotian officials recommend putting the goose shelter and food at one end of the enclosure and the water at the other end. They also suggest putting the geese on the area before the weeds become a problem. Six-week old goslings do an excellent job of weeding, according to the Nova Scotian officials, and White Chinese geese are favourites because they are more active than other types of geese.

The release says that two to four geese are enough to keep an acre of strawberries free of weeds. They work continuously, nipping off grass and weeds as they appear. In fact, geese remove weeds and grass that are growing so close to strawberry plants that it would be impossible to remove them with a hoe or cultivator without damaging the roots.

The reason that geese eat certain plants and show no interest in others is not known; but it is known they will not eat strawberries!

AGRI·NEWS

July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUDGING FOR FUNCTIONAL EFFICIENCY

Functional efficiency should be the basis for judging livestock -- a bull should look like a bull, a steer should look like a steer and a cow should look like a cow!

Following is a description of typical characteristics of fertile and infertile cattle, outlined by Dr. Jan Bonsma and submitted by Lynn Grant, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Taber, who attended the International Stockman's School in Texas earlier this year. Dr. Bonsma is head of the Department of Animal Products at the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

An animal's ultimate development depends upon the interaction of genetics and the total environment. The genes determine how the endocrine glands (pituitary, thyroid and adrenal glands, and the testes and ovaries) will function. This in turn affects the body conformation of the animal.

Since the sex hormones have direct influence on visual characteristics, such as shape of the head, any imbalance or impairment in the secretion of these hormones will cause the bull or the cow to lack the appearance of a normal male or female. Male and female sex hormones also have a direct bearing on total growth.

Bone growth is stopped when the cartilage sections of the bones ossify or turn to bone, which again depends upon the hormone balance. In the male sex hormone, testosterone, causes the bones to ossify and stop overall growth. In the female the sex hormone, estrogen, performs the same function. Hence, excessive height in an animal indicates a lack of sex hormones and may indicate low fertility.

- (cont'd) -

Judging for Functional Efficiency (cont'd)

Physical Characteristics of Bulls and Steers

The male hormones secreted by the testes give the bull his masculine hair on the sheath at the opening of the penis and his masculine chest. They cause the darkening of the hair in neck and crest region, and on the upper shank, lower ribs and thighs. They are responsible for the clear, well-defined muscles in the chest, neck, upper shank and front ribs and on the stifle joint. If a bull loses his dark coarse hair in these regions it is an indication that he is losing his sex drive or libido.

A steer is uniform in color and will be taller than a bull. Because of the lack of testosterone, his chine bones and long leg bones continue to grow. In castrated and infertile animals, the front ribs, thorax, chine, brisket and head are the last parts of the body to reach maturity. Thus a steer or infertile animal is overly tall, flat and overdeveloped in front of the sixth rib and underdeveloped behind the seventh rib.

Since the horns and back part of the jaw bone continue to grow in steers and in the infertile animal, they have a heavier lower jaw than either a bull or a cow. The horn growth of a bull and a cow that has calved regularly will be considerably slower than that of a steer, and the horns of a fertile animal will usually be more uniform in color and have a waxy appearance, compared with the horns of a subfertile animal which has hard, 'flinty' horns with white rings or patches. A cow that has aborted often develops smooth, white spots on her horns.

Physical Characteristics of Cows

A highly fertile cow looks feminine or 'broody', has a dewlap running around the brisket (the brisket is not full), has a tremendous stomach capacity, is big from the hip to the pin and from the hip bone to the stifle joint. The largest part of her body is the mid-rib section: not at the thurls (where the hip bone joins the pelvic bone) or the hipbones. A cow or bull that is widest at the thurls and in the rump area is usually of low fertility.

- (cont'd) -

Judging for Functional Efficiency (cont'd)

In a fertile cow the highest point of the shoulder blades will be higher than the highest point of the chine bones along the back. When such an animal grazes there should be a little valley or dip between the upper edges of the two shoulder blades. In a subfertile cow the chine bones will grow longer and rise above the upper edges of the shoulder blades.

A subfertile cow has flesh and fat on the shoulders, a full brisket, a deep chest; a meaty cheek; a heavy meaty neck; dry coarse hair, especially from the middle of the back to the crown of the head; and is often darker than a fertile cow. The latter has a neck, shoulders and cheeks that are flat and sleek.

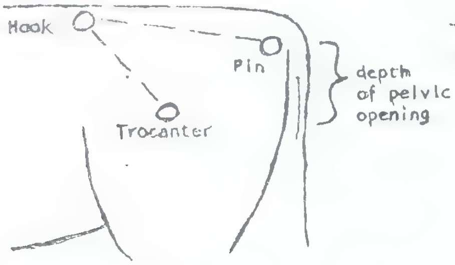
A highly fertile cow sheds her hair sooner in the spring than a subfertile cow. Also, the teats on a fertile cow are longer than the hair on the udder. Hair that is longer than the teats indicates that the cow has not suckled a calf recently. A cow that continually licks herself is usually subfertile.

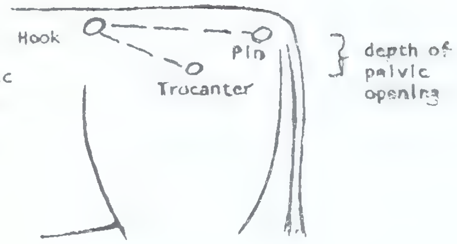
A subfertile cow develops characteristic fat deposits on the body. The first is on the lower cheek. Then the brisket becomes full and the dewlap around the brisket disappears. A hump develops on the chine, and heavy fat deposits develop on the hook and pin bones. Fat is also deposited on the escutcheon, about six inches below the vulva and usually in the region in front of the udder. A cow's tail should hang straight down. If it does not hang straight down, it is probably because of fat deposits below the vulva, which is an indication of infertility.

It is possible to select heifers for functional efficiency before they are exposed to a bull. A fertile heifer looks feminine, has a normally developed vulva, a well developed udder and cycles normally. Early shedding heifers have more active ovaries and are usually more fertile than late spring shedders. A subfertile heifer is usually large, looks masculine, has an infantile vulva and udder, bristly hair on the back, is deep in the chest, has a downward forward protuding brisket and does not cycle normally.

Very straight hocks are undesirable in heifers. They affect the position of the pelvis and result in a smaller pelvic opening which makes calving more difficult. The angle formed by the pin bone, hook bone and trocanter of the femur (hook bone at the apex of the angle) is an indication of the size of the pelvic opening. It should be greater than 20 degrees for easy calving

Judging for Functional Efficiency (cont'd)





Dr. Bonsma says double muscled cattle are less fertile than normally muscled animals and that calves from double muscled bulls cause calving difficulties.

July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN DRYER DAY

A comparison of grain dryer types and moisture meters, and a computer program being developed to determine the kind and size of dryer needed for specific farm situations will be featured at the Beaverlodge research station's "Grain Dryer Day" on July 30.

A number of dryers and moisture meters, a propionic acid treater for high moisture grain, a vacuum elevator and a printout connected to a computer in either Edmonton or Guelph will all be on display. Officials will be on hand to discuss each one.

The "Grain Dryer Day" program, sponsored by Agriculture Canada, the British Columbia department of agriculture and Alberta Agriculture, will also include short talks on the place of a grain dryer in relation to grain, seed and forage seed production.

Bring your own lunch -- coffee will be provided.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN'S RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Several Alberta resource teams are prepared to meet with any group interested in establishing a community service for women. Legal services, a women's drop-in centre, and educational programs are examples of projects with which the resource teams are available to assist.

Donna Fraser, Alberta co-ordinator for International Women's Year, heads the resource teams. They will assist in setting up meetings, workshops, seminars or any type of gathering appropriate to the situation.

In addition, a representative of the Alberta Women's Bureau will host an information booth in any community requesting the service. Booths are staffed by local women, and provide information on topics of interest to women today: the status of women, women in the labor force, continuing education programs, life skills, and current attitudes, among others.

More information on International Women's Year programs and opportunities is available from the Alberta Women's Bureau, Room 418, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

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July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWLY-SODDED LAWNS NEED MOISTURE

Homeowners planning a new lawn can still install sod, says Alberta Agriculture's horticulture liaison officer, Arlene Chesney.

A sodded lawn may be installed throughout the season, but there is a greater problem of dehydration in mid-summer. Whatever time of year sod is laid, it must receive adequate moisture to ensure proper rooting.

Sod has the advantage of creating an almost-instant lawn, says Miss Chesney. An established, thriving lawn can be produced within a single season. However, a sodded lawn is only as good as the sod used and the soil bed on which it's laid.

Sod is useful not only when a lawn is required quickly, but also for difficult locations, such as steep slopes where seeding is less successful.

About six inches of topsoil is desirable with sodded lawns, as with seeded ones. Level and moisten the bed before laying sod. Avoid gaps between strips, but any gaps resulting can be filled with soil.

It's best to lay strips so the joints are staggered. There must be good contact between the sod strips and the soil bed---and most important, don't forget the moisture! Keep the newly-sodded lawn well-watered.

-30-

July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERTISE TO BE ESTABLISHED

Alberta Agriculture and the Alberta Export Agency are compiling an inventory of everybody in the province with agricultural skills interested in making these skills available to people in overseas countries.

These two government departments are collaborating in setting up a registry of people and firms to which the Alberta Export Agency can refer consulting firms, foreign customers and governments who want technological knowledge and staff for various agricultural projects they are planning to undertake.

The intention at the present time is simply to register those individuals and firms that have agricultural technological capabilities which could be put to use overseas. The registry will be kept up to date so clients can be put in touch with those most qualified to provide the service required. More detailed information on specialized experience will be collected as needed through interviews with registrants, or by questionnaire.

The registry is being organized in response to the many requests the Alberta Export Agency has been receiving from overseas countries seeking technological help with a great variety of projects.

The fact that a person or firm has registered does not imply he will automatically be given a consulting job, but it will increase the chances of overseas clients being aware of the services he is prepared to offer. The agricultural expertise found in Alberta is particularly suitable for many of the small-scale projects for which technical assistance is urgently needed.

Anyone interested in registering should send his name and address and an outline of his area of expertise to T. S. Rackham, Market Intelligence, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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AGRI-NEWS

July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRIC FARMING

by Ross Gould
Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist
at Stettler

Everyone who listens to a weather report, and farmers are notable weather watchers, will be aware that we are in the process of converting to the metric system.

Many people seem worried that the conversion to the metric system will be difficult and costly and that it is not necessary. Those who have worked with metric units, however, say that they are much simpler than the system with which we have been familiar in North America. About 99 per cent of the world's population uses the metric system or is gearing up to use it. Australia is about two years ahead of Canada in metric conversion. Most of agriculture there has already converted without adverse reaction. Using the metric system will allow us to compete better in world markets.

Units Devisable by 10

The reason for the simplicity of the metric system is that all the units are in multiples of 10 from a very few standard units. Besides temperature, which we are now familiar with, the standards of length and mass (weight) are the two basis with which most people will be concerned.

Length

The standard length is the metre which is just about exactly half the height of the normal 6′ 6″ door. For convenience the metre is divided into tenths called decimetres which are just about exactly the width of an average man's fist. The centimetre is one one-hundredth of a metre and is almost exactly the width of the average man's little finger nail. The millimetre is the smallest unit of length used by most people. This unit is about equal to the thickness of a dime.

(cont'd)

Metric Farming (cont'd)

Weight

Units of mass (usually the same as weight) are actually derived from the unit of length. The gram is the standard unit of mass and is equal to the weight of one cubic centimetre of water. It takes about 28 1/3 grams to equal an ounce. A sugar lump weighs about 3.8 grams. A quarter (25) weighs about 5 grams. A six-inch spike weighs 50 grams. The kilogram is the unit of weight most commonly used. It is 1,000 grams and is about equal to 2.2 pounds. A quart of milk weighs just a bit more than a kilogram. A 55-pound bale of hay weighs just 25 kilograms. The metric ton, which we often hear of now in market reports on the world grain trade, is 1,000 kilograms, or 2,205 pounds.

One of the advantages of the metric system of weights, once we begin using it, is that we will no longer have to divide the weight of grain in a load by bushel weight. All sales will be by weight alone. This will also avoid a lot of extra pencil work when it comes to designing rations. For example, a steer eating 22 pounds of hay per day in the winter is eating 10 kilograms per day.

Area

Land area measurements in the metric system are based on the hectare which is 1,000 square metres. This is equal to 2.47 acres. This may seem a bit confusing at first when we have to get used to talking of a quarter section as being about 64 hectares. (Actually 64.75 hectares, but there are lots of quarters which are not exactly 160 acres anyway!) A full section of land will then become very nearly 259 hectares. The measuring up of a piece of land will become very easy. A metre is just about the same as a good long pace for a man. We could then pace out our field at 150 metres by 500 metres to get 75,000 square metres or 75 hectares.

Learning the System

People in other countries who have been through the metric conversion process say that it is better to try to think of the new units in terms of something we are working with every day such as the 25 kilogram bale or the 64 hectare quarter section rather than to try to remember all the exact conversion figures. In that way the new units become a part of our everyday thinking sooner. It will be necessary to use conversion figures of course during the change-over, but I am convinced from evidence in other countries, and from working with it myself, that the metric system will eventually be simpler and more efficient. One big advantage for a farmer will be that he will be able to do a lot more calculations in his head or on the back of a cigarette box without the aid of a calculator.

AGRI·NEWS

July 21, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES PROGRAM SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

J. L. Reid, acting assistant deputy minister of agriculture, has announced the appointment of Lillas M. Brown as supervisor of the agricultural societies program.

Mrs. Brown will be responsible for development and administration of policies for agricultural societies. She will be active in counselling communities wishing to form societies, and in assisting societies to carry out their programs.

Nearly 200 agricultural societies are active in Alberta at present. Mrs. Brown will be available to aid in developing fairs, garden shows and other programs. Enrichment and enhancement of life in rural areas of the province is the objective of the program.

Mrs. Brown was born in Carberry, Manitoba and raised in Winnipeg. Summer employment has included research in socioeconomic concerns of rural areas, and work as a lab and greenhouse assistant.

She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1975 with a B.Sc. in agriculture, with special interests in agricultural economics and rural sociology.

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AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA

July 28, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

AGRI-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL FAIR ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Assistance is again available to Alberta producers exhibiting livestock in major agricultural fairs, says Ken Spiller, livestock supervisor with Alberta Agriculture.

Exhibits in the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (Toronto), the Agribition (Regina), the Pacific National Exhibition (Vancouver), and the Western National Stock Show (Denver, Colorado) are eligible. In addition, limited assistance is available to exhibitors of heavy horses in Brandon, Manitoba's summer fair, says Mr. Spiller.

Assistance to exhibitors at the Royal Winter Fair will be a cash grant on a per head basis. It will apply only to animals shown in breeding and market classes.

The schedule is:

- $100 per head for beef breeding animals (cow with calf at foot considered one unit)
- $100 per dairy animal
- $75 per market steer
- $100 per horse
- $35 per head of breeding sheep or swine
- $20 per head for market lambs or pigs

The department will not be responsible for selection of animals, says Mr. Spiller. Transportation arrangements must be made by individual exhibitors. However, the livestock branch will assist in coordinating space or contacting railroads. Interested exhibitors should work through their breed associations, he added.

Agriculture Canada's freight assistance policy will be in the same proportion as last year: three-quarters of actual freight costs on livestock.

"We hope to make these freight payments along with the grants this year, to avoid the long delays of previous years," Mr. Spiller says.

- (cont'd) -

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Agricultural Fair Assistance Available (cont'd)

Exhibitors to the Agribition and Pacific National Exhibition will only receive financial assistance on individual animals, and on groups of animals which place in their classes. Assistance will be equal to the prize money paid for that placing.

Special awards, such as those given by a breed association will not be duplicated. Beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, swine and horses (in breed classes only) are all eligible for this assistance, says Mr. Spiller.

For Denver's Western National Stock Show, assistance will be given on an animal unit basis for breeding beef animals.

The scale of assistance for this show is:

(a) $100 per head or animal unit, for cattle shown individually in breeding classes

(b) bulls shown in group bull classes:

- maximum of 12 head shown as carload or divided for classes of smaller groups -- $50 per head
- maximum of five head shown as a group of five or divided for group of three classes -- $75 per head
- maximum of three head -- $75 per head

Producers interested in receiving these grants must complete and submit them to: the Livestock Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton.

For forms and further information contact Ken Spiller, livestock supervisor, at this address.

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AGRI-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMERS PAY GASOLINE TAX

The gasoline excise tax of 10 cents a gallon recently announced by the federal govenment applies to farmers as well as other consumers.

The new tax must be paid at the time of purchase, says Paul Barlott, of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design branch. Marked or 'purple' gasoline is also affected by the excise tax.

The excise tax will be refunded to farmers for gasoline used in farming operations, the federal government indicated , says Mr. Barlott. However, the method to be used to make a claim for refunds is not yet known.

In the meantime, until this method is known, farmers should keep all their receipts as proof of purchase, so they can be assured of their rebate.

New information on the form the rebate will take will be released as soon as it's known.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA CATTLE SOLD TO LATIN AMERICA

The first delegation of Latin American visitors hosted by the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association (ACABA) has resulted in the sale of 30 animals.

The cattle buying delegation of representatives from Mexico, Chile, and Brazil visited Alberta earlier this month to view Alberta livestock and facilities.

"They enjoyed themselves, and perhaps more importantly they ordered some cattle," says Vic Janssen, an Alberta Agriculture commodity officer.

"We have some really good indications there will be many more ordered in future."

The Mexican visitors, Dr. Rafael Martinez and Henri Dominguez, representing the Regional Cattle Union of Jalisco, placed the initial order resulting from the visit. Holsteins, Herefords, Chianina, Charolais and Black Angus breeding animals make up the 30 head selected.

The cattle will be shipped in late September to Guadalajara, located in the state of Jalisco. They will be immediately exhibited in the Guadalajara Livestock Show October 18 to 25 before being delivered to breeders.

The cattle will be shipped by truck to Mexico, says Mr. Janssen. However, if a total of 80 animals have been ordered by the time of shipping, it could be feasible to use air transport instead.

Other Latin American cattle breeders have also shown an interest in Alberta livestock.

"We have specific enquiries from Chile, and a pretty good indication that other countries will be sending delegations here later on," says Mr. Janssen.

-(cont'd)-

Alberta Cattle Sold to Latin America (cont'd)

He added prices received by the Alberta breeders were satisfactory.

"The prices were exactly what the producers asked for. I think in some cases the prices were lower than what they would have been able to get locally, but they were trying to help develop the market."

The South and Central American cattle breeders are interested in Alberta artificial insemination methods and ova transplants. Dr. Martinez, a lecturer in veterinary medicine at the University of Guadalajara, spent several extra weeks in Alberta to observe techniques in use. He assisted in an ova transplant operation performed at a transplant centre near Calgary.

Reg Armstrong, secretary of ACABA, reports an additional 127 head of cattle, mainly Holsteins and Herefords, were ordered by buyers in Santiago, Chile. Delivery of the livestock has been requested for this fall. They will be exhibited at a Santiago livestock show in November.

Mr. Armstrong also indicated orders and enquiries have been received from Haiti, Brazil, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Janssen believes the interest shown in Alberta cattle is an indication of a continuing potential market.

"I'm certain this is only the start. The prospects are extremely promising, and the Alberta Canada All Breeds Association will be playing a very important role in the further development of this market."

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AGRI-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POULTRY RESEARCH IN ALBERTA

Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with the University of Alberta's poultry division, is carrying out research on poultry nutrition and management.

The research at Oliver, 10 miles north-east of Edmonton, investigates fababean use in laying hen rations, says Alberta Agriculture's poultry branch head, George Milne. The productive performance of different strains of laying hens fed rapeseed meal from low glucosinolate (a chemical compound in rapeseed) and low erucic acid rapeseed, is also being studied along with the performance of broiler breeding stock on two different rations and feeding programs.

The Use of Fababeans in Laying Hen Rations

The objective of this experiment is to study effects on laying hens of varying levels of fababeans in balanced rations. Triplicate groups of 84 birds are being fed rations containing 0, 5, 10, 15, 20 and 30 per cent fababeans. The experiment, involving 12 28-day periods, will be repeated next year. Records are kept on egg production and quality, feed consumption and bird mortality.

Productive Performance of Different Strains of Laying Hens Fed Rapeseed Meal From Low Glucosinolate and Low Erucic Acid Rapeseed

This experiment studies the use of rapeseed meal from a new low glucosinolate and low erucic acid rapeseed variety, in the ration of two white leghorn strains common in Alberta. One of the strains appears able to tolerate higher levels of rapeseed meal.

Duplicate pens of 100 birds from each strain are fed balanced rations containing 0 or 10 per cent Tower rapeseed meal. Records are kept on egg production and quality, feed consumption and bird mortality.

The presence of glucosinolates in rapeseed has often been blamed for higher mortality rates sometimes occurring when a high level of rapeseed meal is included in laying hens rations.

- (cont'd) -

Poultry Research in Alberta (cont'd)

Limited experimental work and field observation have suggested levels of bird mortality may be influenced by chicken strains. In view of development of new low glucosinolate rapeseed varieties, it seemed possible higher levels of rapeseed meal might be included in the rations of all strains of laying birds without adverse effects.

Restricted Feeding of Broiler Breeding Stock

The objective of this experiment is to determine whether strain, type of ration or the use of restricted feeding during the laying year affects the performance of broiler breeding stock.

Two broiler strains, raised on the Hubbard Skip-A-Day feeding and lighting program, are being used. Duplicate lots of 100 birds from each strain are being fed a combination of two rations, one based on wheat and the other on corn. The birds are subjected to restricted and unrestricted feeding systems. Records are kept on egg production; egg weight, fertility and hatchability; feed consumption and bird mortality.

Broiler breeding stock in Alberta does not always attain performance levels reported in Eastern Canada and the United States. This has led to speculation that if differences do exist they may be related to the strain of broiler breeding stock, restricted feeding programs during the laying period or the type of ration. Eastern Canadian and broiler breeding stock rations traditionally contain much more corn and soybean meal than those used in Alberta.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW TECHNIQUE DEVELOPED FOR ODOR FREE SEWAGE SLUDGE COMPOSTING

An aeration method of composting raw sewage sludge reducing offensive odors and eliminating disease causing organisms has been developed by the U. S. department of agriculture (USDA).

The Maryland Environmental Service (MES) and the District of Columbia department of environmental services co-operated with USDA scientists on the project.

Controlled aeration of the sludge is the key. Pulling air through a pile of sludge from beneath brings interior temperatures up from the minimum of 54° C to as high as 85° C, say Dr. Eliot Epstein, soil scientist with USDA's agricultural research (ARS), and ARS agricultural engineer George B. Willson.

Woodchips are mixed with the sludge at a ratio of three parts chips to one part sludge before composting to improve the draft through the pile, reports a USDA news release.

Each pile is then covered with a blanket of pre-dried screened sludge compost which prevents odors from escaping to the atmosphere. The cover of screened compost is also an insulating layer, providing more uniform temperature distribution throughout the pile.

Air is pulled through the piles by small electric fans (1/3 hp) attached to six-inch perforated pipes beneath the pile of composting sludge. Odors are filtered out by passing the air through another pile of previously composted sludge.

Previous studies by ARS microbiologist Dr. Wylie D. Burge show temperatures obtained by this composting technique (54° - 85°C) kill most human pathogens. Additional studies are being conducted on virus and bacterial survival during composting.

- (cont'd) -

New Technique Developed for Odor Free Sewage Sludge Composting (cont'd)

Three years ago, a Washington, D. C. sewage treatment plant became overloaded with sludge while awaiting construction of new incinerators. ARS, in cooperation with MES, agreed to experiment with composting the overload at an ARS agricultural research center.

Experiments began in December, 1972 with windrow composting of digested sludge, which did not produce odors. However, when raw sludge was composted, undesirable odors brought protest from nearby residents and passing motorists. Continued research has now led to substantial reduction of odor during raw sludge composting.

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AGRI-NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHEEPMEN'S FIELD DAY A SUCCESS

Forty-four performance tested rams were sold at the Sheepman's Field Day held July 20 at Innisfail's Hereford Center to mark the end of Alberta's first ram test.

"The field day was a tremendous success," says Alberta Agriculture's sheep supervisor, Dr. John Taylor.

Average price for the 44 rams auctioned was $223, and the top selling ram owned by Bill Matejka, sold for $525. Preceeding the auction, trophies were awarded for the top-performance rams in the ram testing station, to Gordon Kure and Peter Boulton.

The field day included sheep dog trials and handicraft and grading displays in addition to the ram sale.

More than 200 spectators attended the sheep dog trials, conducted by Joe Buchanan of Cochrane. Displays and demonstrations of wool-based handicrafts were staged by women wearing historical costumes, and included carding, spinning and weaving activities.

Agriculture Canada representatives demonstrated the measurement of the loin eye area and backfat of lambs

The auction and special events were followed by a lamb barbecue provided by the recently formed Lamb Processors Co-op, located in Innisfail.

The field day is expected to become an annual event, with possible expansion in the program offered, says Dr. Taylor.

'Next year, we anticipate the performance test station will also test wethers and ewes.'

"In the meantime, we're all confident the success of this field day and the opening of the Lamb Processors Co-op indicate a rejuvenation of the sheep industry in Alberta."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EARLY HARVESTING OF WHEAT

Wheat may be windrowed at an early stage of maturity without damage to bushel weight or yield, says Agriculture Canada cereal harvesting specialist, M. E. Dodds.

An early stage is defined as one when the kernel moisture has decreased to 35 per cent, and the kernel is quite firm and golden in color, says Mr. Dodd in the Swift Current Research Station's weekly newsletter. Wheat cut at this stage of maturity dries faster in the windrow than standing grain, and is ready for combining four or five days after cutting under favorable weather conditions. This results in a gain of seven to nine days over straight combining of the same crop. The time gain is of particular advantage if adverse weather conditions prevail late in the harvest season, says Mr. Dodds.

Pitic 62, grown in 1974, was compared with hard red spring wheat on the maturity stage at which it could be windrowed. The 35 per cent kernel moisture stage occurred eight days later than Neepawa. Pitic 62 was twelve days later than Neepawa in reaching the straight combining stage of maturity. Pitic windrowed at 35 per cent kernel moisture was ready to pick up and thresh eleven days later, eight days before the crop could be straight combined.

The harvesting practice of starting combining operations at a higher-than-usual kernel moisture content, followed by artificial drying with heated air, has received some acceptance, Mr. Dodds says.

Under favorable harvest conditions, this practice would result in a gain of two or three days in harvesting time, and under poor conditions would be of considerable advantage. Wheat to be used for seed should be allowed to dry and mature naturally, Mr. Dodds recommends. It should dry to at least 20 per cent kernel moisture before threshing and artificially drying, to avoid damage to germination.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KEEPING ABREAST OF AGRICULTURE

A flood of agricultural information is released daily, and it can be difficult for producers and agri-business to remain in touch with new developments.

John Reid, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Manning, offers suggestions for keeping abreast of the information.

- Farm magazines: choose magazines carrying the most helpful information. There's no sense subscribing to "Canadian Cattleman" if your living derives mainly from grain production.
- Consider investing in market information sources like Canfax if a large proportion of your income comes from products not marketed through an agency, such as the Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board or the Alberta Dairy Control Board.
- Listen to "Call of the Land", Alberta Agriculture's daily farm broadcast, on your local radio station; and read the district agriculturist's column in your local paper to keep abreast of government programs.
- Farm newspapers such as the "Western Producer" and the "Winnipeg Free Press Report on Farming" are useful for keeping abreast of current farm problems and politics. They cover a wide variety of subjects.
- The "Grain Grower", published by the United Grain Growers, is an excellent idea book. It is a loose leaf binder augmented by new pages sent each month. Many articles describe farmers' innovations. Write United Grain Growers Ltd., Box 2424, Calgary to obtain a full set of articles and be added to the mailing list. Cost is about $10 a year.
- Alberta Agriculture's Farm Management Data Manual contains a wealth of up-to-date technical and financial information to facilitate planning and budgeting in the farm business. It can be ordered through the agriculturist at $9.95.

- (cont'd) -

Keeping Abreast of Agriculture (cont'd)

- Alberta Agriculture's production economics branch has almost 90 consensus research data studies describing the experiences, in dollars and cents, of small groups of farmers who have specialized in one farm enterprise. Along with the "Market Analysis" and the "Farm Economist", compiled by the market intelligence branch, they can be ordered through the district agriculturist. All are free.
- Both industry and government offer thousands of free bulletins. Each Alberta Agriculture district extension office stocks more than 300 different bulletins and has access to hundreds more. The bulletins are also available from the publications office, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

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CORRECTION

July 14 Agri-News 'Coyote Response to the Removal of Livestock Carrion' should have read:

Two of the townships were used as controls, while 16 to 23 per cent of the carrion remained in the other two.

instead of:

Two of the townships were used as controls, while 16 to 23 per cent of the carrion was removed from the other two.

and:

These differences in average densities were most striking from mid-winter to late winter when the ratio was 7.5 for the carrion free areas compared with 17.1 for the control areas.

instead of:

These differences in average densities were most striking from mid-winter to late spring when the ratio was 7.5 for the carrion free areas compared with 7.1 for the control areas.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASSISTANT DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

J. G. Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the appointment of three assistant district agriculturists.

Rick Bjorge, Gordon Frank and David Samm have been assigned respectively to the district agriculturist offices in High Prairie, Claresholm and Spirit River. All three appointments commenced May 1.

Rick Bjorge, born in the Rosalind, Alberta area, grew up on a mixed farm. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1975 with a B. Sc. in agriculture.

Mr. Bjorge worked for the past three summers at the University of Alberta's Parkland Farm, as a plot worker responsible for maintaining forage and cereal crops in demonstration plots.

Mr. Bjorge fills the vacancy left by the departure of Roman Hrytsak from the High Prairie office.

Gordon Frank was born in Saskatchewan and raised in Hebert. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B. Sc. in agriculture in 1975.

Mr. Frank has been employed for the past three summers as a field plot worker engaged in research at the University of Saskatchewan. He is training under Allen Toly at Claresholm.

David Samm was born and raised in Manitoba, and received a B. Sc. in agriculture at the University of Manitoba in 1975. His work for the past three summers has included a S.T.E.P. position surveying hog management and breeding practices, and Dutch Elm disease inspection work for the Canadian Forestry Services.

Mr. Samm is training under Roland Witte, district agriculturist at Spirit River.

AGRI-NEWS

AUG 26 1975
CANADIANA

August 4, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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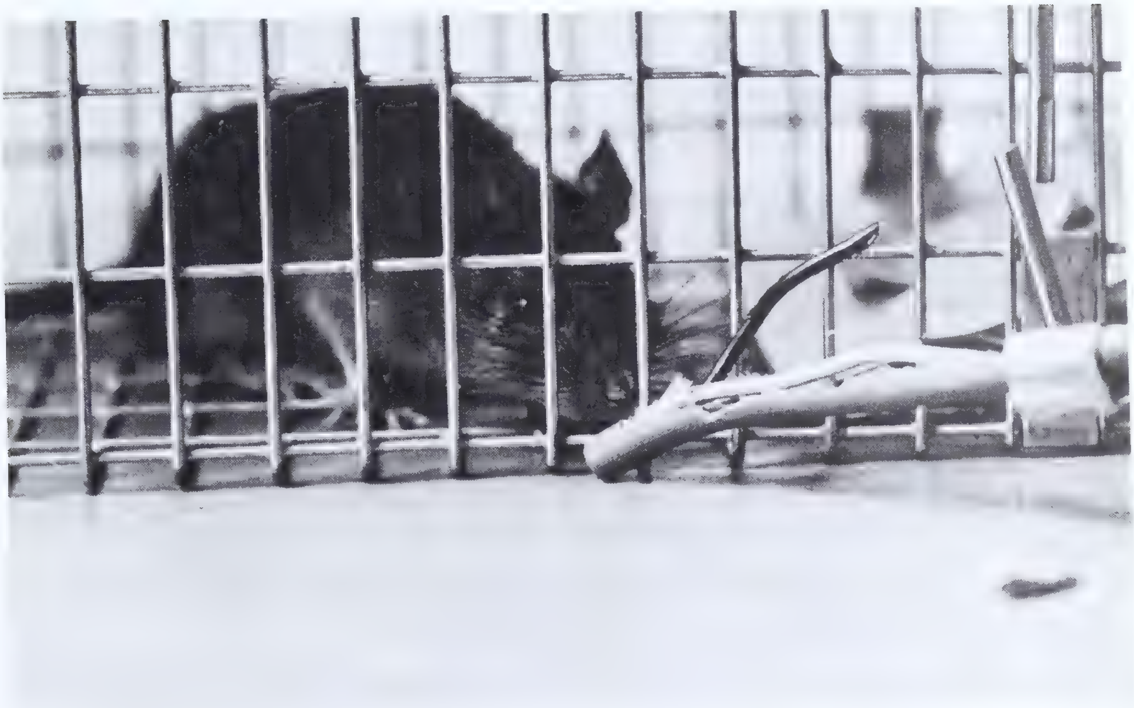
AGRI-NEWS

August 4, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EDMONTON'S RAT PROBLEM OVER



- Edmonton Journal photo

Black rat trapped in an Edmonton building face to face with destroyed telephone wire.

Edmonton's recent rat problem is officially ended.

More than a month has passed since the last roof or black rat was seen, trapped or poisoned from the walls of a building in the city's downtown area, says Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of animal pest control, Cliff Barrett.

About 10 rats were trapped and destroyed after complaints were made to the City of Edmonton this spring. An estimated several dozen more rats died in the walls from poisoned bait.

- (cont'd) -

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'We'd like to congratulate the City on the prompt and dedicated action it shows in general, and particularly showed in this case,'' says Mr. Barrett. ''It did everything required to get the infestation cleared up.''

As a result of Alberta's rat-free status, many Albertans don't know what a rat looks like. Pocket gophers, muskrats, squirrels and woodrats are all frequently reported as rats by well-meaning residents who have never seen a Norway rat or a roof rat.

''So we were disturbed to find there were some black rats here in Edmonton which hadn't been reported. They chewed off a telephone cable, and the first report was of some very large mice. Well, they did have some rather large mice!''

The infestation was cleared up by a pest control firm on contract to the City.

Mr. Barrett feels the failure to report the rat problem was unfortunate. Alberta's rat control program is based on one part-time and six full-time pest control officers, and 250 volunteer honorary pest control officers; but mainly on the concern and co-operation of Albertans in general.

''This Edmonton case showed a breakdown in the reporting system.''

Roof or black rats are an oriental species, and the Edmonton rats are believed to have arrived in a packing crate from Hong Kong.

''The fact the rats weren't reported increased the hazard of spread, but so far no reports have come in from elsewhere to indicate they did spread.''

Like Norway rats, black rats are carriers of the bubonic plague organism. This, along with the costliness of rat damage, is the reason for Alberta's vigilance in keeping the province rat-free.

The black rats found in Edmonton are different in appearance from Norway rats. They are smaller, with large ears and longer tails at least equal to their body length. Their fur is darker, and they're more agile.

-(cont'd)-

Most rats enter Alberta overland from the east, between Cold Lake in the north and the American border in the south. The province's southern border, fronting on the state of Montana, presents no rat entry problem. The northern part of Montana is sparsely populated,with long distances between communities, and rat entries from the state are not considered a problem. Rats also enter infrequently from the west.

Rats destroy an estimated $20 to $30 each annually when they damage crops, stored grains, and equipment, Mr. Barrett says.

"Some geographical areas have come to believe rats can't be cleaned out --- that they're inevitable, like death and taxes. But while it may require a high outlay to eliminate rats, the returns are tremendous."

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August 4, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAY SHORTAGE POSSIBLE

An acute shortage of forage is expected for Alberta this year, says Larry Gareau of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch.

Although a few areas of the province which had good moisture conditions earlier this year may have surplus forage, an acute overall shortage is likely for Alberta on the whole, Mr. Gareau says.

"Estimating and forecasting the supply and demand for hay is always a delicate job," says Mr. Gareau. "Many factors are responsible for the total production and preservation of adequate supplies of forage."

Weather, livestock numbers, planted acreage, and the availability and price of substitute feeds all have an influence.

Alberta's total planted acreage in hay was significantly reduced in 1975 to 3.5 million acres from 1974's planting of 3.7 million acres.

In addition, the first hay harvest this year in Alberta has yielded about one million tons or 30 per cent less than the first cut last year. Because of this year's cool spring and low fertilizer application, the hay crop was harvested about two weeks later. A second crop is considered unlikely in most areas, Mr. Gareau adds.

"Much of the hay harvested in Northern Alberta in the past two weeks has suffered tremendous weathering damage and will have lost over 50 per cent of its feed value."

"Compared to the production of 7 million tons of good quality hay produced in 1974, the most optimistic figure we can place on the 1975 production is 5 million tons of average quality hay."

Mr. Gareau points out there is no present indication of decreases in cattle population, and cattlemen are unlikely to reduce the number of head they will carry into next winter.

-(cont'd)-

Hay Shortage Possible (cont'd)

Even in last year's mild and easy winter, producers used almost all the 7 million tons of hay available. The small amount of feed carryover, plus this year's production, will be insufficient to fill the feed requirements of a normal winter, Mr. Gareau says.

Recent wheat sales to Russia have further reduced the prospects of using feed grains or cereal green feed as substitutes for hay.

The forage situation in Alberta is not yet critical, Mr. Gareau says, but it's far from bright. All available forage likely to go to waste is urgently required.

"No one can guarantee a spectacular price for hay, but no one can guarantee supplies will be available to deficient areas from the outside."

"The responsibility of ensuring adequate supplies still rests upon the individual livestock owner himself, and foresight in this case cannot be overemphasized."

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August 4,1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENTENNIAL BARLEY FIELD INSPECTION

Farmers growing Centennial barley from certified seed may still apply for field inspection for recertification.

Although the deadline for inspection applications has passed, farmers are urged to make applications, says Lydia Erickson, a pure seed technician with Alberta Agriculture.

Late applications will be accepted because of this year's shortage of Centennial barley. Normally the product of certified seed is not field inspected.

Farmers will be eligible for this field inspection only this year. Applications should be sent to the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, Box 4588, Ottawa.

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AGRI·NEWS

August 4, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CREAM SEPARATORS AVAILABLE AGAIN

How did the manager of a Calgary creamery become the largest supplier of cream separators and parts in North America?

George Heidebrecht's explanation of "one thing led to another" must be the understatement of the decade.

However it happened, the new availability of this basic piece of equipment is a boon to small dairies, family farm operators, and part-time farmers. As dairies grew larger and more mechanized in recent years, small hand-turned or electrical cream separators became a rarity. Eventually, about five years ago, the last major supplier of separators and parts (a Canadian mail-order department store) stopped carrying them.

However, farmers who wanted to produce milk and milk products from their two or three cows still demanded the separators and replacement parts.

Mr. Heidebrecht's order of 150 new cream separators from Turkey, which arrived two weeks ago, marks a new opportunity for small operators.

"There are many farmers who have just a few head of cattle, who want to produce milk and milk products, and haven't been able to do so at reasonable cost," says Brian Hodge, an Alberta Agriculture commodity officer.

"These units are competitively priced, and they're well within the means of small operators.

Mr. Heidebrecht's hand-turned Turkish separators are priced between $250 and $275 and can be converted to electrical power. All-electric models sell for $350 to $585, depending on their capacity and special features.

In addition, Mr. Heidebrecht's Foothills Creamery is stocking almost $200,000 worth of separator parts.

- (cont'd) -

Cream Separators Available Again (cont'd)

Mr. Heidebrecht's role as a separator supplier began with the purchase of remaining stock from the mail-order house when it decided not to carry separators.

'The companies that were still selling parts were just too glad to find someone to buy them out and get out of it," says Mr. Heidebrecht.

However, his supply of new equipment and parts eventually was exhausted, and he began to seek manufacturers. No separators are now manufactured in North America, because of decreased demand, but companies in Sweden, France and Turkey still produce equipment and parts.

With initial assistance from Alberta Agriculture in selecting equipment suitable for Alberta conditions, he travelled to the three countries to investigate the potential of their products.

The Turkish separators --- produced six months every year in a factory producing bicycles the other six --- appeared the most suitable at a competitive price.

Foothills Creamery in Calgary and the Edmonton outlet, Dorothy's Appliance Centre, are handling orders from all over Canada and North America, and from as far away as Central and South America.

Response to the new availability of separators has been "tremendous", says Mr. Heidebrecht. Eager customers in Alberta and Western Canada include people trying to get 'back to the land'.

"There seems to be a tremendous move afield for people to seek a self-sufficient way of life. I know a lot of people on acreages who want to do things themselves. They want to have their own cow and make their own butter and their own cheese."

Mr. Hodge says Alberta Agriculture favors the import of separators and parts, since it will promote agricultural production in the province.

"We used to get requests to the department from people seeking out any type of cream separator, and no-one was providing that service until now.

A by-product of the new trade in cream separators has been a demand for churns and other butter-making equipment, and Foothills Creamery now offers a selection of equipment.

- (cont'd) -

Cream Separators Available Again (cont'd)

"It's rather interesting how people find out cream separators are available and seem to associate that with the old butter churns. Many people write to ask us if there is a hand-turning butter churn available."

Mr. Heidebrecht looked into the possibility of manufacturing churns, but the cost was prohibitive. Instead, he discovered a manufacturer, and offers two all-electric models for $46 and $60.

"We are also selling butter molds, butter ladles, small home pasteurizers and ice cream mixers."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LACOMBE RESEARCH STATION FIELD DAY

Visitors are welcome at the Lacombe Research Stations's annual field day, Thursday August 14.

Horticultural, cereal and crop management test areas will be open for tours starting at one p.m. The research station will provide transportation on these tours, which offer visitors the opportunity to view experiments of interest and value to central Alberta farmers.

Grain varieties, and new herbicides for wild oats and quack grass control will be featured.

Guests are invited to bring a lunch, and coffee will be provided from 12 noon to one p.m.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINTER WHEAT INCREASING IN IMPORTANCE

Winter wheat outyields spring wheat by about 19 per cent in southern Alberta, according to records from Agriculture Canada's Research Station at Lethbridge.

Over the past 10 years, winter wheat grown on dryland fallow has averaged about 5.5 bushels per acre more than spring wheat. Spring wheat outyielded winter wheat only in 1970, 1971, and 1973, all years when early spring moisture was abnormally low.

The currently recommended varieties such as Sundance and Winalta can be grown advantageously in most districts south of Calgary, says U. J. Pittman, an agronomist with the Lethbridge Research Station.

Winter wheat sown into a firm seedbed during early September usually provides enough plant cover to protect the soil from serious wind and water erosion. It makes its maximum growth during early spring when soil moisture is usually most plentiful, and makes better use of limited moisture supplies than spring wheat in dry years.

Similarly, in wet years, it can reduce the amount of soil moisture moving down to groundwater by using it for growth. By reducing the amount of groundwater, the danger of developing saline soil downslope is also reduced.

Most winter wheat is planted on fallow, but excellent crops have also been produced when sown into clean, moist stubble land. Occasionally, stubbled-in winter wheat fails to germinate in the fall because of dry soil. These crops usually emerge in early spring and produce acceptable grain yields at harvest. Spring stands of even three or four plants per square foot are adequate to make a crop and should not be destroyed. Weeds may be a problem in extremely thin or poor stands of grain, says Mr. Pittman.

Winter wheat may be grazed moderately in late fall if enough top growth is left to protect the soil from erosion. It should not be grazed in the spring since the growing points of the plants may be damaged.

-(cont'd)-

Winter Wheat Increasing in Importance (cont'd)

Since Winalta, a very winter-hardy variety, was introduced in the mid-1960's, fall-sown wheats have gained an important position in western Canadian agriculture. With the development and release of high-quality varieties even more winter-hardy than those now available, the acreage of winter wheat in western Canada should increase dramatically in the next decade.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REDUCING EGG BREAKAGE AND CRACKING

Cracked and broken eggs represent money down the drain to the egg producer, but the loss can be reduced with careful handling and packing.

An excerpt from the Poultry Digest suggests 15 steps to follow in avoiding damage to eggs:

1. Choose strains carefully. Some layer strains lay better quality shells.

2. Remember age of hens -- after 10 months of lay, shell quality is much poorer.

3. Caution workers to be careful. Careless workers cause breakage, some of which is visible only under a candling light.

4. Provide plenty of clean nesting material for floor birds.

6. Don't overcrowd cages -- if cages are not properly supported, bottom of cage may have too much slope.

7. Collect eggs several times per day -- collect on flats if possible. If baskets are used, don't fill over two-thirds full.

8. Use sound egg cases -- cracks and breakage can be 12 times as high in poor cases.

9. Don't allow work areas and doorways to become cluttered.

10. Keep carts, washers and other equipment in good working order.

11. Don't allow laying house temperature to go over 32°C, if possible.

12. Keep waterers clean. If birds have digestive upsets, shell quality deteriorates.

13. If egg breakage and poor shell quality are problems, consider adding calcium, vitamins and drugs to feed.

14. Do not use live vaccine after birds are 16 weeks of age.

15. Do not frighten birds.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONEYBEES WITH A DRINKING PROBLEM

Honeybees require drinking water to maintain their activities and function as a colony, and in hot dry weather the nearest source may be a water trough or dripping faucet.

If this happens to be on another property, it can be a quick way to upset the neighbors, says Dr. Ulf Soehngen, apiculture supervisor for Alberta Agriculture.

Bees need water to feed the brood or undeveloped young, to cool the hive on very hot days, to reliquify crystallized honey and for adult bees to drink. Much of the water a colony uses comes from nectar gathered in the fields. However, during dry periods, when little nectar is available, and on extremely hot days, additional water is needed. Foraging bees leave their hives to collect water, usually from the nearest source.

"It is at such times that bees may unwittingly become a severe nuisance to the neighbors," says Dr. Soehngen.

Groups of water-gathering bees may appear at puddles of standing water, dripping faucets, watering dishes and troughs for livestock and pets. They beat a steady path between hive and water source.

Water-gathering bees rarely sting unless threatened, but on a hot day they may be a potential hazard because of their numbers. Livestock and humans (particularly small children) may be hit or stung when they accidentally move into the bees' flight path.

Dr. Soehngen gives a recent example in which several colonies were moved to a location across the road from a small acreage. Livestock watering dishes proved an attractive water source, and bees gathered on the acreage in numbers great enough to prevent children from playing outdoors.

Beekeepers can easily avoid the problem, and maintain happy relationships with neighbors, by providing water in the beeyard. Buckets of water with floating material sufficient to support drinking bees will serve the purpose, Dr. Soehngen says.

-(cont'd)-

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Honeybees With a Drinking Problem (cont'd)

"A container from which water drops unto a sloping board, where it is collected by the bees as it flows down, would be even more suitable," he adds.

This system prevents collection of fecal matter or nosema spores in the water supply.

If bees are to accept the artificial water source, it must be introduced early, before the water gatherers find and become accustomed to another source. It must also be kept full, to keep bees interested.

"And a pot of honey for the neighbors will help keep relations sweet," suggests Dr. Soehngen.

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AGRI·NEWS

August 4, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOOD RESEARCH SUPERVISOR APPOINTED

Ray P. Dixon, product development commissioner, has announced the appointment of Dr. Gottfried Haase as supervisor of food research with Alberta Agriculture's food laboratory.

In his new position, Dr. Haase will supervise research projects aimed at developing new products from Alberta-grown foods, and improving existing products. The food research unit also assists the Alberta food industry with scientific and technical aspects of product development, and advises on new ingredients, equipment and processing methods.

Born in Austria, Dr. Haase graduated with honors in agriculture from the University of Vienna in 1963. He later attended the University of California, receiving his M.S. in food science in 1965 and his Ph.D. in agricultural chemistry in 1968. From 1969 until 1971 Dr. Haase was employed at the Nestle Research Center in Switzerland conducting product development research and studying oxidation processes in foods. Later in 1971 Dr. Haase joined Akras International in Vienna. For three years he was production and laboratory manager, supervising production of aromas and essences and new product development.

Dr. Haase belongs to several professional organizations including the Institute of Food Technologists and the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology.

Dr. Haase's appointment was effective August 1.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEM ROT FOUND IN RAPESEED

Several fields of rapeseed in the Edmonton area are severely affected by sclerotinia stem rot.

The fungus disease has been discovered in fields east and north of Edmonton, says Dr. J. S. Horricks, supervisor of plant pathology for Alberta Agriculture.

"In the fields we've looked at, sclerotinia affected 20 to 75 per cent of the plants."

The disease is largely confined to rape plants which have lodged or fallen over, and is rarely found in fields which haven't lodged.

"Rapeseed doesn't usually lodge, but the recent rain, high winds and hot sunshine have brought about this condition," says Dr. Horricks.

Standing rapeseed is well-ventilated, but lying on the ground it provides the high humidity and heat in which the sclerotinia organisms thrive. Sclerotia, or sclerotinia organisms, may remain dormant in soil for several years, depending on environmental conditions. Then, encouraged by moisture and heat, they may germinate and affect crops. Fungus may grow from the black sclerotia along the ground to affect the stems of rapeseed plants.

More rarely, when a crop is lodged, the sclerotia may form fruiting bodies, small cup-shaped structures which discharge spores through the air for about six inches. The spores land on plant stems, and cause the stem rot damage. The present sclerotinia infection was spread by this sporing process.

"This condition is so unusual that some University of Alberta plant pathologists have worked years on the disease, but never encountered the situation," Dr. Horricks says.

The black, oval sclerotia bodies are found in the pith of the lower stem. As the disease progresses, the basal part of the stem shreds, and this weakness contributes to the lodging effect.

- (cont'd) -

The fungus disease was also discovered on shepherd's-purse, stinkweed and thistle in the affected fields.

"Sclerotinia will affect hundreds of broad-leaved plants," says Dr. Horricks, "but cereals and grasses aren't affected."

'The disease has an extremely wide host range, and I'm only surprised it hasn't become a problem in rapeseed before now."

Dr. Horricks adds sunflowers would be a much more important crop in Alberta if it were not severely affected by sclerotinia stem rot.

Chances on infection from field to field are low, since the fruiting bodies can throw spores only six inches.

Long crop rotation is recommended for control of the disease. At least four years should be allowed between susceptible crops, which include rapeseed, mustard, sunflowers, sweet-clover and certain vegetables. Cereals and grasses may be used to advantage in the rotation, but farmers should take special care to control susceptible weeds, including volunteer rape, Dr. Horricks advises.

Sclerotinia stem rot is not expected to seriously affect the prospects of rapeseed in Alberta.

"It's only severe on crops which have lodged. Long rotation and control of weeds affected by the disease will keep sclerotinia stem rot under control."

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AGRI·NEWS

August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSECTICIDE RESIDUES INSIGNIFICANT

Organochlorine insecticides such as DDT have not left significant residues in irrigation districts of Southern Alberta.

A co-operative research project of Alberta Agriculture's Food Laboratory and Agriculture Canada's Lethbridge Research Station has indicated only minor residue levels from organochlorine and and organophosphorus insecticides.

Soil samples were taken at random from 179 sites in seven irrigation districts. The samples were analyzed at the food laboratory in Edmonton for residues of 17 organochlorine insecticides and seven organophosphorus insecticides.

"Those were only the main ones," says R. A. Currie, supervisor of food chemistry for the laboratory.

"There could have been residues from 40 or 50 insecticides, but usually they're not present so we don't bother mentioning them."

Residues most commonly found were aldrin, dieldrin, heptachlor, lindane, chlordane and DDT. Endrin was found in only a few samples.

"They were present in average levels which I would have expected for these soils," says Mr. Currie. "For a number of years there have only been trace levels of residue."

"Pollution of soils by organochlorine insecticides is generally not important here," says Dr. Bill Charnetski, a Lethbridge Research Station insecticide residue expert.

"If we consider the total organochlorine residue load, more than half the sites sampled contained less than 0.01 parts per million (ppm) of residue."

Of the remaining sites, 28 per cent averaged 0.03 ppm, 18 per cent averaged 0.2 ppm and two samples averaged 0.66 ppm.

None of the samples contained identifiable organophosphorus compounds.

Mr. Currie credits Southern Alberta farmers with keeping the residue levels insignificant.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Insecticide Residues Insignificant (cont'd)

"I think most of the farmers are conscientious and are applying the insecticides as they should."

"Originally some producers were overusing the insecticides. I think it's a favorable reflection on our farmers that they're using the compounds carefully. If used the way they're intended, the chemicals shouldn't leave much residue."

The soil analysis project was unusual for Alberta Agriculture's food laboratory, Mr. Currie says.

"We weren't involved too much in soil analysis before this project --- normally it's handled by the Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory."

However, testing for insecticide residues requires special extractions, and special isolation measuring techniques.

"We already had the expertise and the equipment, and it was just a matter of adapting to the problem."

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August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOLL-FREE-NUMBER TO FEDERAL COMMISSION

Immediate toll-free access to the Grain Handling and Transportation Commission regional office in Medicine Hat will be provided by introduction of a Zenith telephone number.

ZEnith 22001 will allow interested Albertans to express views to the federally-established commission.

"The Alberta Grain Commission and other offices of Alberta Agriculture are collaborating with Alberta Transportation in working with the commission to ensure the welfare of all Albertans is safeguarded," says John Channon, Chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission.

The Grain Handling and Transportation Commission plans to conduct regional inquiries and prepare a comprehensive evaluation of transportation requirements. Possible adjustments in grain handling and transportation related to grain farmers, elevator systems, economic development, communities and the railway network will receive special attention. Recommendations on the rail network and abandonment or retention of lines will receive top priority.

"The commission's hearings are going to discuss whether rail lines should be made candidates for abandonment or remain in the permanent grid until the year 2000. This doesn't mean closing branch lines or making decisions to close branch lines," Mr. Channon says.

"It's really a matter of deciding whether the railway companies have the right to apply for abandonment of certain lines."

- (cont'd) -

Toll-Free Number to Federal Commission (cont'd)

The commission, under the chairmanship of Emmett Hall, includes Reinhold Lehr of Medicine Hat, the federally appointed commissioner for Alberta. R. W. (Bob) Ferguson has been appointed inquiry officer and will be located in Medicine Hat. The Grain Handling and Transportation Commissions's offices are at Room 4, 419 Third Street S. E., Medicine Hat, phone 527-8591.

The Government of Alberta will express its views through submissions, and will co-operate with the commission in ensuring individuals, groups, companies, communities and regions of Alberta receive an opportunity to be heard.

Ken W. Stickland, formerly with the Rural Education and Development Association (REDA) and the Alberta Export Agency, will co-ordinate the submissions of local groups and communities, from Alberta Transportation offices in Edmonton.

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AGRI·NEWS

August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

Two six-month travelling scholarships sponsored by the Canadian Nuffield Scholars Committee will be awarded in 1976 to Canadian farmers or farm managers, for study of farming practices and agricultural conditions in Great Britain.

Intended to promote better understanding between Canadian and British farmers and increase practical farm knowledge, the scholarships will be awarded on the basis of one each for Eastern and Western Canada. The value of the scholarship is a maximum of $3,700, to cover return air fair plus travel and living allowances.

Scholarship winners will map out programs in consultation with the National Farmers' Union of Britain and the Ministry of Agriculture, and will spend their time visiting practical farmers and agricultural institutions. On their return they will report to the Canadian Nuffield Scholars Committee, and use their increased knowledge to improve their farming practices in the community in which they live.

The scholarships are open to men and women who are farm managers, are engaged or intend in the future to engage in practical farming in Canada, and are persons likely to spread their knowledge on return. Applicants must be Canadian citizens, preferably between 25 and 40 years of age.

Prospective applicants should expect to leave Canada in February, 1976, and return in August.

Application forms are available from the Secretary, Canadian Nuffield Scholars Committee, 2nd floor, 2220 Albert Street, Regina.

Completed application forms should be returned to the committee not later than September 1, 1975. Winners will be announced in November.

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August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PEACE RIVER SHEEP SALE

Feeder lambs, registered rams and breeding ewe lambs will be featured at the Peace River Lamb Association's second annual sheep sale Friday, August 15.

About 250 lambs have been consigned, and as many as 300 may be entered in the sale, to be held at 2 p. m. at Fairview's Auction Mart.

"The ewe lambs and rams will be inspected at the auction market before the sale, and rigidly culled for health, conformation and size for age," says the association's representative, Trevor Jones.

"This is the first time we've had a sale so early in the year, so we're interested to see how it goes," says Mr. Jones. "Some of the farmers have been breeding early."

Feeder lambs will be coming from community pastures and farm pastures, he adds, weighing between 50 and 70 pounds.

"We'll have a spectrum of all the breeds of sheep being raised in the area. We're also expecting a consignment of about a dozen purebred Suffolk rams from Central Alberta."

A representative of the Lamb Processors Co-op, the producer-owned specialty plant recently opened in Innisfail, will attend the sale.

"Someone may turn up with finished lambs of 90 to 120 pounds, and any culled ewe lambs could also be sold to the plant," Mr. Jones explains.

"At this point we're just feeling our way along and trying to develop the sale. A sheep sale like this takes a long time to develop a reputation. We feel by really getting out and doing our best, we can cull for the best sheep, and have a good clientele attending the sale year after year."

A second Peace River Lamb Association sale is scheduled for October 10, also in the Fairview Auction Mart. Breeding ewes, as well as rams, feeder lambs and breeding ewe lambs, will be offered at the later sale.

August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FENCE COSTS COMMONLY DISPUTED

A fence between two adjoining farm properties can be a point of disagreement between neighbors.

Who pays the cost of the fence: the person who built it and has maintained it, or the person who derives the most benefit from it? Differences of opinion occur frequently.

Fortunately, the conditions of the Line Fence Act cover the situation, says Harry Link, Alberta Agriculture's regulatory services supervisor, who administers the act.

"If you talk to 10 people, you'll get 10 different opinions about who should pay for the fence."

The advantage gained by the owner of property on either side of the fence is important in deciding the ownership of a fence. When two owners decide to erect a fence to their mutual advantage, they must pay equally the cost of building, repairing and maintaining the fence, the act states.

If one owner decides to erect a fence for his own purposes, but it will serve no function for the adjoining owner, he must bear the cost alone. However, if the neighbor at a later date gains advantage from the fence's existence (for example, to pasture livestock) the cost must be shared. The cost to be shared, Mr. Link points out, is not the original cost of the fence, but the present value, and any subsequent repair and maintenance costs.

-(cont') -

Fence Costs Commonly Disputed (cont'd)

The Line Fence Act makes no mention of one traditional means of settling fence cost disputes. Following this method, the owner stands in the middle of his field facing the fence in question. The section of fence to his right is his responsiblity, and he must bear the cost of construction repair and maintenance. The section to his left is the responsibility of the adjoining property's owner.

This system could lead to an unfair division of cost, Mr. Link says.

"If one section is over rough ground or is difficult to fence and keep in repair, and the other section is level and simple to keep, it could make a considerable difference in costs."

Disputes over cost-sharing for fences are common.

"I receive a lot of correspondence each year," says Mr. Link.

Disagreements are settled by the appointment by each owner of an arbitrator to discuss the matter and come to a settlement. If the arbitrators are unable to come to terms, a third arbitrator is appointed to intercede.

Occasionally, one or both landowners are left unsatisfied by the decision of the arbitrators, says Mr. Link. In this case, they can take the problem to court for civil action.

Any decision by arbitrators or courts about the proper position for a fence doesn't affect the title or ownership of the adjacent land, and is effective only as long as the fence is in existence, the act reads.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KILL ONLY THE PESTS

All pesticides are poison, and farmers and home gardeners must handle them with the greatest care.

Not everyone who handles a bug bomb or drives a commercial sprayer reads all the available information on pesticides, but the Agricultural Pesticide Society believes there would be fewer accidents and more healthy birds and animals if they did.

Pesticides have been in use for many years. DDT, the best known, worked miracles in destroying insect pests, increasing crop yields and expanding agriculture into new areas. Millions of people in developing countries owe their lives to the power of DDT. However, in the late 60's, mounting evidence of substantial chemical residues all around the world led many countries, including Canada, to restrict the use of DDT.

The chemical industry responded with new, selective and environmentally safer pesticides and herbicides. These products are safe. They break down after use into harmless elements of the environment, yet many of these replacement compounds produce a greater risk to human health than DDT --- when used improperly.

Farmers must control a long list of pests. Weeds, pests and diseases reduce agricultural production by a third even with the assistance of control chemicals. While some crops could be grown without chemical help, yields of others would be greatly reduced. Food quality would suffer without chemicals because many items would be infected with fungi and insects, the Agricultural Pesticide Society says.

Agriculture Canada has registered about 3,000 pest control products for use in agriculture, but registration won't protect the user, or wildlife and livestock, against improper use. Pesticides are poison: otherwise they wouldn't kill insects.

If only one instruction could be given to the user by the society, it would be read the label. Manufacturers are required by law to print instructions for effective use, disposal of unused chemicals and emergency first aid treatment.

-(cont'd)

Kill Only the Pests (cont'd)

Among the most important things to remember when using pesticides are:

1. Wear protective clothing if the label advises.
2. Change clothing after working with pesticides and wash often to remove any chemical that may have splashed on the skin.
3. Store pesticide containers out of reach of children and animals.
4. Never store pesticides in containers normally used for food or drink.
5. Know where the nearest poison control centre is located.
6. Call a doctor if any pesticide accident occurs. If a victim is to be treated for pesticide contamination, send a label or container along to the doctor or hospital.
7. Dispose of empty containers at a proper garbage dump. If they must be disposed of on the property, rinse them out and pour the water into a pit where seepage will not infect animal feed or water. Crush cans and bury them. If cartons are burned, beware of toxic fumes in the smoke.

Pesticides are intended to kill pests. It is dangerous, wasteful and expensive to use more than is necessary.

- from the Agricultural Pesticide Society News Letter

August 11 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVOID COMBINE GRAIN LOSSES

Grain losses at harvest time represent serious financial losses to Western Canadian farmers every year. A large part of this is due to faulty combine operation and adjustment.

To keep losses as low as possible, checks must be made carefully and frequently. Although it is practically impossible to eliminate all losses, careful attention to proper adjustment can reduce them appreciably.

The combine operator usually must compromise between speed of operation and grain losses. Even after all the adjustments are properly made to suit the prevailing conditions, it is possible to get very large losses by over-feeding the combine. Losses of over 20 per cent on properly adjusted combines are not uncommon when they are operated at their mechanical maximum.

Careful control of the feed rate by means of the forward speed control is extremely important. When a combine is operating near its optimum rate, an increase in speed of 1/2 mph will often double the losses. Usually, the straw walkers will reach their capacity first, so the loss over the walkers should be checked frequently to help determine the proper feed rate. The effectiveness of many of the other adjustments depends on an even, uniform feed rate into the combine.

A recent development, the grain loss monitor, is helpful in maintaining the correct feed rate. The monitor is attached to the rear of the straw walkers, or the shoe, to determine the amount of grain being lost. After calibration it will indicate the number of bushels per hour being lost. The operator can then make the adjustments necessary to reduce losses to an acceptable level.

- (cont'd) -

Avoid Combine Grain Losses (cont'd)

Problems and Possible Causes

1. Grain not threshed from heads
   - too much clearance between cylinder and concave
   - cylinder speed too low
   - worn cylinder bars or concave bars
   - overfeeding or underfeeding
   - concave filler strips or cover plates required
   - concave and cylinder not parallel
2. Cracked grain in grain tank and in tailings
   - cylinder speed too fast
   - too little clearance between cylinder and concaves
   - too many concave filler strips installed
   - excessive or uneven feed rate
   - concave and cylinder not parallel
   - too little straw being fed into cylinder
   - lower sieve closed too far
3. Backfeeding and slugging of cylinder
   - feed rate too high
   - crop too damp or green
   - cylinder speed too slow
   - concave setting too close
   - engine governor not working properly
   - rear beater or stripper bar too far from cylinder or excessively worn
   - concave grate plugged
   - cylinder drive belts too loose
4. Grain loss over straw walkers
   - straw walkers overloaded by too-high feed rate
   - excessive straw breakup due to excessive cylinder speed or concaves set too close
   - concave grate plugged
   - too many concave filler strips or wires installed
   - improper straw walker speed

- (cont'd) -

Avoid Combine Grain Losses (cont'd)

- damaged check flaps
- straw matting on walkers -- add additional riser fingers or fishbacks
- check flaps too far back allowing grain to be thrown back too far
- too much tailings returned

5. Grain being blown over upper sieve (chaffers)
    - too much wind
    - wind blast not properly directed
    - chaffer not open far enough
6. Grain being carried over upper sieve (chaffer)
    - too little wind
    - too much broken straw and chaff, caused by excessive cylinder speed, concave set too close, or too-high a feedrate
    - chaffer extension too low, too high, or closed too far
    - upper sieve (chaffer) not open far enough
    - too much tailings returned
    - improper shaker speed
    - wind blast not properly directed
7. Foreign material in grain tank
    - lower sieve open too far
    - too little wind
    - too much broken straw and chaff caused by excessive cylinder speed, concaves set too close, or too-high feed rate
    - wind blast not properly directed
    - upper sieve (chaffer) open too far
    - too much tailings returned
    - improper shaker speed

- (cont'd) -

Avoid Combine Grain Losses (cont'd)

8. Too much whole grain in tailings
   - lower sieve closed too far
   - overloaded sieves because of insufficient wind blast
   - too much broken straw and chaff caused by excessive cylinder speed, concaves set too close, or too-high feed rate
   - too much wind or improperly directed wind blast
   - improper shaker speed
   - chaffer open too far or not enough
9. Too many whole and partial heads in tailings
   - cylinder speed too slow
   - concave clearance too large
   - concave filler strips or extra wires required
   - too little straw being fed into cylinder
10. Too much chaff in tailings
   - chaffer and chaffer extension open too far
   - chaffer extension set too high
   - too little wind
   - too much broken straw and chaff caused by excessive cylinder speed, concaves set too close, or too high a feed rate
   - wind blast set too far forward

Copies of 'Combines Operation and Adjustment', from which this information is excerpted, are available without charge from the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture ., Room 1B, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 , or your district agricultural office.

August 11, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DUAL ROLE FOR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES

The significance to agriculture of applied research was emphasized today in an Alberta government endorsement of the research function in the province's agricultural colleges.

The announcement, issued jointly by agriculture minister Marvin Moore and Dr. A. E. Hohol, minister of advanced education and manpower, encourages a dual-role purpose for farms at Fairview, Lakeland-Vermilion and Olds Colleges.

Without undermining education as the primary function of these college farms, recognition is given to the potential of the laboratory setting for agricultural research. Meaningful results from experimental programs have repeatedly influenced techniques and provided valuable knowledge to the farming community.

In addition to the projects initiated internally by faculty and students, the colleges will respond to requests for co-operative research from outside government agencies, private companies and individuals.

External agencies and individuals wishing use of college farms for applied research will negotiate conditions with the college president or principal. Responsibility for funding rests with the requesting group or person.

Formation of an Applied Research Advisory Committee is planned, to establish guidelines for current activities and future needs of applied research. The initial proposal suggests a maximum of 12 members, drawn from the farming community, concerned private agencies, related government departments and participating colleges.

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CANADIANA

AGRI·NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
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AGRI·NEWS

August 18, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVERAGE HONEY CROP EXPECTED

Alberta's 1975 honey crop is expected to be about the same as last year's, not a 'bumper crop' as earlier reported by some news sources.

"At this time we estimate the yield will be 12 to 14 million pounds of honey," says Alberta Agriculture apiculture supervisor Dr. Ulf Soehngen, "but no-one really knows the exact figure until the crop has been taken off."

Last year's final crop figure was 13 million pounds, he added.

"The Peace River beekeepers' return isn't as high as it usually is. From the reports available so far, the figures range from 50 to 120 pounds per hive for the Peace River district."

This represents a drop from the normally high production of northern Alberta beeyards.

A cool, slow spring was a major reason for poor returns in areas of the province. Poor weather in California slowed production of honey bees for export in packages. As a result, some Alberta beekeepers received their orders as late as mid-May, two or three weeks after the usual starting date.

"About half of Alberta beekeepers received their packages late," says Dr. Soehngen.

Alberta also had a cold, rainy spring, retarding the growth of bee colonies. In cold weather, bees form clusters to protect their young brood, instead of expanding through the hive preparing for honey production.

As in any year, the quality of beeyard management has a direct effect on hive productivity

"Bees need attention when they need it, just like plowing or seeding --- they don't need it a week tomorrow," says Dr. Soehngen.

Some beekeepers, particularly in Southern Alberta, may average 150 pounds or more of honey per hive, - if we get the necessary warm weather, estimates head bee inspector Roger Topping.

-(cont'd) -

Average Honey Crop Expected (cont'd)

"Recently I've taken apart hives in the southern part of the province that were so full I'd never have tried to lift them if I'd known," Mr. Topping says.

Rumors of an outstandingly high honey crop in 1975 circulated recently after a report for the Red Deer area was inadvertently taken as a prediction for all Alberta.

"It's true we could have a bumper crop in Southern Alberta, but in the north, it doesn't look good," says Mr. Topping. "But now everyone appears to think all of Alberta will be getting a bumper crop."

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August 18, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HORSE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Marvin E. Moore, Alberta's minister of agriculture, has announced the creation of a unique horse improvement program.

The performance test for Alberta born and raised horses will be similar to existing programs testing the performances of sheep, swine and cattle. It will be the only program of its kind in Canada, and possibly North America, Mr. Moore said.

The new program was designed by Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch and a Horse Improvement Committee of representatives from the major breed associations in the province.

The purpose of the program is to identify superior animals within each breed, on the basis of conformation or form as related to function, and of performance. The performance category will place most emphasis on the horse's athletic ability but will recognize the value of correct training.

Improving the quality of Alberta-bred horses is the primary objective of the new program, Mr. Moore said.

Superior horses, breeders and trainers within Alberta will be identified and advertised through the program. Another concern will be establishing better markets for Alberta-bred horses.

Among the first activities planned under the Alberta Horse Improvement Program will be a special performance show, tentatively scheduled for mid-September at Spruce Meadows, a new equestrian centre south-west of Calgary. Owners of Alberta-bred horses of any breed may participate. The main emphasis will be on Quarter horses, Appaloosas and Arabians. These are the most common breeds in Alberta, with more young horses available for breeding stock. Morgans, American Saddlebreds, heavy horses and Welsh ponies will also be represented. Because of the Alberta Racing Commission's programs to encourage their improvement for racing purposes, Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds will not be included.

-(cont'd)-

Alberta Horse Improvement Program Announced (cont'd)

The skeletal and muscular structures of young horses will be evaluated at the performance show. Their conformation will be judged in relation to the athletic function they are expected to perform, including reining, pleasure riding, and trail riding.

Evaluation will be restricted to activities not requiring training severe enough to cause stress to a developing animal.

Four and five-year-old horses will be assesed on ability to perform manoeuvres such as competitive trail riding, requiring considerably more training and athletic ability than three-year-olds have. Mature broodmares and stallions will be evaluated mainly on the quality of their progeny or descendants.

An experienced equine veterinarian and two qualified horse show judges will take part in the performance show. The show's purse structure, location, date and judges are not yet finalized.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 18, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAUTION ESSENTIAL IN MOVING FARM MACHINERY

Alberta farmers may move agricultural machinery on public roads, but they should nevertheless be aware of the need for caution and good safety standards.

"Even though there's authority for farmers to move vehicles and implements of husbandry on the highway, they should recognize the fact they're slow moving and can create a hazard," says George Calver, acting head of Alberta Agriculture's engineering and home design branch.

"Farmers should use all possible caution so they are able to retain this privilege."

Movement of farm equipment is governed by Alberta's Public Service Vehicle Act, revised at this spring's sitting of the legislative assembly.

Under the altered legislation, farmers are not required to obtain permits to move agricultural equipment, called 'implements of husbandry' in the act. This rule extends to dealers in farm machinery.

Equipment designed for normal use under 25 m.p.h. must display a triangular flourescent emblem on the rear of the equipment or the vehicle carrying it.

This applies not only to balers and stack movers, Mr. Calver points out, but to any implement of husbandry, including combines, swathers and cultivators.

Size limitations govern the transport of some equipment on highways. Equipment must not be more than 13 1/2 feet high, 40 feet long for a single vehicle, 65 feet long for a tractor and semi-trailer or 70 feet long for a double trailer combination.

Mr. Calver adds farmers moving machinery on the highway should be particularly careful about adequate lighting.

"While the automobiles may not have their lights on, for the safety of the farm operator, he should certainly have his lights on."

"More farmers are killed in these accidents than automobile drivers. The operator of the farm equipment is going to get hurt first, so it is to his advantage to take all necessary precautions."

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AGRI-NEWS

August 18, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BROOKS' HORTICULTURAL FIELD DAY

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center's annual field day is designed to appeal to the home gardener, the commercial grower and the casual visitor.

The whole family is welcomed to activities scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, August 29. The center is three miles east of Brooks on the Trans-Canada Highway. A babysitting service will be provided for young children.

Continuous tours are planned throughout the day to the small fruit, vegetable and ornamental plots. Fruits, vegetables and flowers harvested from the research plots will be displayed, along with herbs and spices, which are gaining importance in home gardens.

Center staff will give demonstrations for visitors interested in pruning and budding techniques, and flower arranging. A special 'house plant clinic' will demonstrate good plant culture and will answer individual questions.

Specialists will be on duty in booths, and available to demonstrate and answer questions on insect, disease and weed problems. Visitors are invited to bring plant pest problems to their attention.

For homemakers, the accent will be on utilizing vitamin-rich vegetables: tomatoes, green peppers, and eggplant. Home economists will display these vegetables in processed form. A panel of specialists will discuss vegetables, and answer questions about the nutritional quality of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables.

A vegetable salad plate, coffee or cool drinks will be served free of charge at noon, from the center's picnic shelter.

Following the lunch, special guests will help the center celebrate its 40 years of service to agriculture and home gardeners. Guests are expected to include Brooks' mayor, Bev Nelson; Bow Valley MLA Fred Mandeville and member of parliament Jack Horner.

Former superintendents center and staff, including P. D. Hargrave, P. D. McCalla, A. M. Wilson and Dr. A. O. Olson, will be introduced and recognized.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 18, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHOOSE AUTOMATIC WATERERS CAREFULLY

Electrically heated automatic stock waterers can provide several benefits, but farmers should be careful in purchasing them.

Automatic waterers are possible in any farm with a water pressure system, says Kris Chawla, acting water and sewage specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

They can replace water troughs, stock-type heaters and high wattage electric immersion heaters.

"Stock can help themselves to fresh, temperature controlled water," says Mr. Chawla.

Automatic waterers save labor, and also increase livestock production. Tests at universities and experimental stations have indicated cows watered with automatic waterers gave 3.5 per cent more milk than cows watered twice a day. Hogs watered automatically gained 10 pounds more per animal in six winter weeks than hogs watered twice daily.

For year-round protection, automatic waterers are electrically heated, insulated tanks filled automatically from a pressure line. A float operated valve controls the flow and level of water. A thermostat normally set at 4° C (40° F) controls the electric heating element.

Outside temperatures, size of element, location and amount of water used all govern the cost of the operation. The yearly electrical cost should be $10 to $30 per unit.

A variety of types, sizes and makes of automatic waterers is available, to suit different livestock needs. Mr. Chawla recommends considering 10 points in planning a purchase:

1. The water should bear the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) stamp of approval.

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Choose Automatic Waterers Carefully (cont'd)

2. Buy the smallest unit which will provide ample water for your livestock. A general purpose bowl type waterer designed to water one animal at a time is rated by the manufacturers as suitable for 25 to 30 head of cattle. Most livestock men find it will handle up to double this number. If a larger number of cattle are drinking from a waterer, there's less chance of a supply line freezing, and the heating element is not required to operate as often.

3. Buy a unit with the heating element immersed right in the water or one with the element attached to the underside of the tank. Less electric power is used by these types than by types which warm the space enclosed by the housing. A heat reflector under the element will tend to throw more heat to the pan.

4. Buy a unit with an adjustable thermostat. University of Manitoba tests showed stock drink more water at 4 C than 18 C (40 F - 65 F).

5. Buy a well-insulated waterer. The better the insulation, the lower the operating cost. Styrofoam is much superior to mineral wool for this use.

6. Buy a waterer supplied with a cover, to reduce heat loss and the amount of electricity used.

7. Buy an easily cleaned waterer. Waterers constructed so dirt or straw can get into the float-operated valves are not recommended.

8. Buy a waterer from a dealer who keeps parts on hand.

9. Buy a waterer with a replaceable element.

10. Ensure the waterer you buy is complete. Some waterers must be wired with an electrical outlet to use a heat tape, and others require the added cost of hook-up accessories.

For more information on rural water facilities, contact the regional agricultural engineering technologist through the nearest district agriculturist's office, says Mr. Chawla.

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AGRI·NEWS

August 18, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEKEEPING COURSE SCHEDULED FOR FALL

An introductory course in beekeeping will be offered by the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in the fall semester.

Topics for the course will be bee anatomy and physiology, bee behavior, wintering, package bee management, apiary and swarm control, sanitation in beekeeping equipment and honey technology.

Open discussion will be an important part of the course, taught by Dr. Jerry Awram, former apiculture supervisor with Alberta Agriculture.

Those interested in taking the course may send advance registrations to NAIT. Places are still open in the class, which will be limited to 25 people.

The beekeeping course will be offered Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., for 10 weeks, for a total of 30 hours of lessons. September 25 is the commencement date.

The course may be offered again beginning in March 1976 if enough people show interest in taking it.

Registration applications and enquiries should be sent to the Continuing Education Department, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, 11762 - 106 Street, Edmonton.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 18, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMPLEMENT ENGINEER APPOINTED

Edward Wiens, Alberta Agriculture's farm implement act supervisor, has been appointed senior engineer and officer-in-charge of the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute's Lethbridge testing station.

Mr. Wiens was raised near Herschel, Saskatchewan, and completed a B.Sc. in mechanical engineering in 1961 at the University of Saskatchewan.

His experience includes two years as design engineer for a Calgary manufacturing firm, more than two years as test engineer with the former Agricultural Machinery Administration in Regina, and eight years as a research officer in the University of Saskatchewan's agricultural engineering department. During this time he completed an M.Sc. in agricultural engineering and a M.B.A. in business administration.

Mr. Wiens has adminsistrated the Farm Implement Act for Alberta Agriculture since December 1973. His appointment was effective July 1.

The Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) was developed in early 1975 as a joint project between Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The double objective of the institute is to test machinery for agricultural production amd make test reports available to farmers to aid in equipment selection; and to assist prairie-based manufacturers of agricultural machinery in improvement of existing products and development of new products.

The institute's central station now is under construction at Humboldt, Saskatchewan. A second satellite station will soon be set up in Manitoba.

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA

not listed

August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Phone (403) 427-2127

AGRI-NEWS

August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COW-CALF LOANS MUST BE REPAID

Last fall's loans to allow cattlemen to carry calves through the winter should not be regarded as grants, says Alberta's Minister of Agriculture Marvin Moore.

"I would like to emphasize on this program we expect the loans to be repaid," says Mr. Moore. "We are not entertaining any thoughts of making that loan a grant at all."

The system of cash advances to cow-calf operators, designed to prevent disastrously low prices in the feeder market, was announced in October 1974. The advances were interest-free for one year, and provided $75 per calf on 80 per cent of the 1974 calf crop, to a maximum of $6,000 for each operator. After one year a prime rate of interest plus 2 per cent will be charged on any unpaid balance.

' The loans are not due until one year after they were taken out, and most of them were made last Novermber and December."

More than 15,000 applications were received for the loans, and approximately $47 million have been distributed under the loan program. Interest on the cash advances, carried by the Alberta government will cost an estimated $6 million for the one-year period. Just over $400,000 has been repaid by producers participating in the program, although many payments have been made in installments rather than in total repayment.

Cattlemen were encouraged to feed calves to heavier weights themselves or place them in feedlots, rather than marketing them immediately. The loan was intended to enable farmers, particularly small family farm operators, to improve income position by marketing finished cattle or heavier weight feeders rather than light weight feeders or calves.

Mr. Moore says the prices cattlemen have been receiving for heavy weight feeders as compared with light weight feeders and calves indicates the program has achieved some of its objectives.

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August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN PRICE PHONE-IN SERVICE

Complete grain and oilseed price information is available any time of day or night through a new telephone service provided by the Alberta Grain Commission.

Marvin Moore, Alberta minister of agriculture, says that anyone in the province can obtain this price information without charge by dialing the long-distance operator and asking for Zenith 2-2075.

Residents of six Alberta telephone exchanges can hear the same price report by calling local numbers. These numbers are: Edmonton, 423-4383; Red Deer, 347-8155; Vermilion, 853-5422: Grande Prairie, 532-9397; Lethbridge, 329-4909; and Calgary, 265-1540.

The report, revised three times daily, gives the latest prices for flax, rye, rapeseed, feed wheat, feed oats and feed barley. Included in each report are street prices, feedmill prices, Winnipeg Commodity Exchange futures prices, and in the case of rapeseed, the Vancouver cash price.

"Until now, farmers have relied chiefly on radio broadcasts for current grain and oilseed prices," says Mr. Moore. "The phone-in service gives them still another source of information, one they can consult as they make day-to-day buying and selling decisions."

The price information service has been in operation since August 1, and is rapidly gaining acceptance among farmers and feedlot and feedmill operators.

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AGRI-NEWS

August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN ENCEPHALITIS IN ALBERTA HORSES

Although approximately 12 suspect cases of western encephalitis have been diagnosed to date in Alberta horses, a serious outbreak of the disease is not expected because below feeezing temperatures will almost certainly drastically reduce the mosquito population very shortly.

Western encephalitis is a virus-caused brain infection that can affect several animal species and human beings. The virus is carried and transmitted by mosquitoes.

Dr. R. G. Christian, head of Alberta Agriculture's Laboratory Services Branch, says horse owners should check with their veterinarian regarding vaccinations to find out the local situation.

He reports that the suspect cases referred to above have occurred in southern, central and northern sections of the province. However, so far no suspect cases have been diagnosed in the Peace River region.

According to Dr. Christian, confirmation of a diagnosis requires isolating the virus or obtaining serological evidence of the specific infection. "Both procedures," he says, "usually require several weeks to complete. The cases that have occurred have all had typical clinical signs. These include sleepiness, inco-ordination, fever and inability to eat. Several horses have died and post-mortem examinations have revealed typical changes of encephalitis in the animals' brains."

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AGRI-NEWS

August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW ALFALFA PLANT FOR ALBERTA

The recently opened alfalfa dehydrating (dehy) plant at Legal expects to be producing between 10,000 and 12,000 tons of alfalfa pellets next year.

According to the general manager, Maurice Daoust, the plant, known as Legal Alfalfa Products, already has a domestic market in Alberta and British Columbia and there is a good possibility that half of next year's production will find a market in foreign countries.

Locally, alfalfa pellets have proved popular with dairymen who require a high protein, high quality feed for their milking cows. Hogmen are using them in their finishing and brood sow rations. Cow-calf operators and beef feedlot operators also speak very highly of this convenient high quality feed.

The reason that the quality of dehy alfalfa pellets is so high is that the forage is processed while still green. This means that the nutrients are preserved and the antioxident agent which is incorporated into the pellets prevents oxydization of the vitamins. Unlike hay which is usually first cut in late July, the alfalfa used in dehy pellets is cut in June. The dehy industry has found that cutting alfalfa early gives a higher protein level and a high quality product. The second cut, which is of an even higher quality, begins very early in July.

"The outstanding advantages of dehy alfalfa pellets," says Mr. Daoust, "is their high quality and their convenience. They have a constant protein content and they lend themselves to mechanized handling. Also, they are more easily stored than hay."

Like all other commodities the price of alfalfa pellets is rising. During the last two months the price of dehy pellets containing 17 per cent protein has risen from an average of $60 to $65 to $85 and $90 a ton. Mr. Daoust predicts that by January a ton of high quality alfalfa pellets will cost $100. However, they are still a good buy when one considers that a few years ago pellets cost as much as wheat, whereas today they cost about the same as oats.

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A New Alfalfa Plant for Alberta (cont'd)

One of an increasing number of dehydrating plants in Alberta, the Legal plant is 50 per cent owned by shareholders which are made up of farmers and businessmen in the Legal area. The total investment in the plant and its facilities is $1.2 million. A loan of about $1 million dollars is guaranteed by the Agricultural Development Corporation in Camrose.

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AGRI·NEWS

August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROST DAMAGE TO ALBERTA CROPS

Nobody can actually say how much damage has been done to Alberta crops by the mid-August frost, but Alberta Agriculture's forage crops specialist, Larry Gareau, believes that an overall loss in value of around 10 per cent is a reasonably fair estimate.

He says his department has received reports of spotty frost damage all the way from Calgary in the south to High Level in the north. This is a very unusual situation. The average date for the first frost in central Alberta is around September 1 and can be as late as the beginning of October.

Although the recent frost may not have lowered crop yields by any appreciable amount, it will even delay the maturing process of crops that were not frozen, thereby reducing their quality. "Garden crops," says Mr. Gareau, "are probably the ones that have been the most severely damaged."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN INVENTORY OF WINTER FEED SUPPLIES

Now is the time to take an inventory of your winter feed supplies.

Alberta Agriculture's Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory staff will test your feeds for you to determine their true quality and they will also help you to set up a winter feeding program as well as to determine what supplements or extra feed supplies you will need to meet your winter requirements.

Ruth Berg, animal nutritionist at the feed testing laboratory, says samples should be submitted for analysis as soon as possible after harvesting to give sufficient time to set up a suitable winter feeding program and to avoid the fall rush for feed analyses at the laboratory.

She suggests taking the samples while loading the grain in the field. You can get a good representative sample by putting a couple of handfuls of grain every now and then into a five gallon pail located next to the loader. When the pail is full mix the grain thoroughly and submit a sample of the mixture.

While a sample of hay or straw can be taken immediately after it has been stacked, it is best to sample silage three weeks to a month after it has been ensiled to allow time for proper fermentation to take place.

All feed samples should be sent to the Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory, O. S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street Edmonton, T6H 4P2. The charge for a regular analysis is $2 per sample. Your local district agriculturist can give you complete information on the proper sampling procedure you should use and he can also provide you with a sampling kit. You can also borrow a roughage core sampler from him.

If you have your feed analyzed immediately after harvesting you will have time to set up your winter feeding program well in advance of when it is needed and you will be in a position to take steps to alleviate any potential feed shortage you may have.

Remember, says Ms. Berg, "If you're not feed testing, you're guessing!"

August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SECOND HAY CROP

One of the problems of harvesting a second cut of hay is the effect on next year's crop. If the hay is cut too late in the summer, regrowth may deplete the food reserves in the plant roots, especially in the case of alfalfa, leaving the plants more subject to winterkilling.

To avoid winterkilling, scientists recommend that the last cutting of hay be taken not less than about five weeks before the first killing frost. Ross Gould, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Stettler, reports that research workers at Agriculture Canada's research station at Melfort, Saskatchewan, have found in the last couple of years that damage from winterkilling on late-cut alfalfa can be reduced by leaving a long stubble with some base leaves still on the stem. To do this usually means leaving a stubble of four to five inches on the field. Mr. Gould says when he visited Melfort last year he saw a crop of alfalfa growing on a field which had been harvested with a five inch stubble on September 1 of the previous year, and that it showed little evidence of winterkilling. However, the yield in alfalfa growing in the same plot, but which had been clipped closely the previous year, appeared to have been reduced by about 40 per cent.

An alternative method of getting a second cut of hay would be to leave the last cutting until immediately after the first killing frost. There would then be no regrowth to deplete the food reserves in the plant roots and winterkilling should be at a minimum.

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A Second Hay Crop (cont'd)

In spite of the fact that there has been a reasonably good hay crop in some parts of the province this year, there still could be a shortage of roughage before next spring. The present cow population is still reasonably high and many cattlemen have been overwintering more of their light feeder calves on mainly roughage rations because of high feed grain costs. Also, many feeders are using rations containing more roughage in view of barley prices being over $2.25 per bushel. Consequently, roughage consumption could be higher than normal this winter, especially if the winter comes early and is a long, cold one. With these possibilities it seems a good idea to harvest as much high quality second-cut hay as possible as long as it does not damage prospects for next year's crop.

Since this second cut is usually high in both protein and digestibility, it is particularly valuable to dairymen who need a high protein ration for their milking cows. It can also be very useful to beef producers who need a high quality roughage supplement for growing out their calves or to insure adequate protein in their cow wintering rations Also, a high quality hay can be mixed with straw or a poorer quality hay to provide a ration that will meet the protein and energy requirements of a beef herd at least until near calving time.

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August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SILAGE

Silage can be made from many crops including grasses, alfalfa, sweetclover, cereals, corn and beet tops. The important point, regardless of the crop being ensiled, is the moisture content.

Normally, the moisture content should be between 65 and 70 per cent, but an experienced silage maker can have it lower, providing he packs the material well. "If the moisture content is too low," says Walt Pierson, Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturist at Warner, "moulds are likely to develop. If it is too high, liquid will run out of the bottom of the silo. With few exceptions, crops that are in the hay stage have about the right moisture content. A good test is to squeeze the chopped forage in your hand. If liquid can be barely squeezed out of it, the moisture content is about right for ensiling."

Mr. Pierson says it is possible to adjust the moisture content of the material while the silo is being filled. If, for example the moisture content is too low, you can increase it by adding water as long as the material is still fairly succulent. A high moisture content can be reduced by adding such things as hay or grain to absorb some of the excess moisture.

The ensiling process depends upon the presence of carbohydrates for good fermentation. Crops, like legumes, and to some extent grasses, are low in soluble carbohydrates and will make better silage if a conditioner is added. Ground barley and beet tops added at the rate of 150 pounds per ton of silage, and molasses added at the rate of 80 pounds per ton of silage, all make good conditioners. Well matured corn does not require a conditioner.

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Silage (cont'd)

Excluding air from the fermenting material is one of the most important things when making silage. This is done by packing. Packing is easier when the forage is chopped in short lengths. As each load of material is put into the silo, it should be spread and packed immediately. To keep spoilage to a minimum, cover the top of the silage with any type of material that will reduce its exposure to the air. Hay, straw, plastic, tar paper, weeds, germinating cereal seeds, soil and many other things have been successfully used for this purpose.

A temporary silo is not recommended because silage losses, and the cost of the materials used for constructing a temporary silo each year, would soon exceed the cost of making a permanent silo. However, it can be used under emergency conditions.

The walls of a temporary silo can be made out of straw or hay bales, snow fence lined with tar paper, plastic sheeting etc. In fact, it is even possible to simply put the forage in a pile and drive the tractor over it in many different directions to pack it.

If you want to build a bunker silo another year you can get plans and technical information from Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch in Edmonton or from your district agriculturist.

AGRI-NEWS

August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VEGETABLE MARKETING BOARD AND POTATO COMMISSION SHARE NEW OFFICE

The chairman of the Alberta Potato Commission, Bill Visser, and the chairman of the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board, Deitrich Kuhlman, have announced the appointment of Jack Mills as secretary-manager for the two organizations.

They also announced that both organizations will share a new office which is located at 433G Holiday Village, Mayor Magrath Drive, Lethbridge. The telephone numbers are 328-7018 for the Alberta Potato Commission and 327-0447 for the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board.

Mr. Visser and Mr. Kuhlman believe that sharing office facilities and staff will result in greater efficiency and economy for both their organizations.

The new office manager is Mrs. Geneva MacDougal.

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August 25, 1975

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGROMETEOROLOGIST JOINS ALBERTA AGRICULTURE

Alberta Agriculture now has an agrometeorologist in the person of Conrad Gietz whose headquarters will be the Plant Industry Division in Edmonton. His appointment was announced by the division's director, Dr. Art Olson.

An agrometeorologist studies and interprets meteorological or climatic information as it applies to agriculture and farming.

Initially, Mr. Gietz will assemble climatic data and study the effects of such things as hail, frost and drought on agricultural production. He will also study the effect of weather on insect and disease outbreaks and attempt to develop a system of crop yield predictions. In addition, he will investigate the needs for agricultural weather forecasting services.

Mr. Gietz grew up on a farm in the Pincher Creek area and has had some farming experience in the Peace River area. He is a graduate of the University of Alberta where he obtained his B.Sc. having majored in mathematics and physics. He received his professional training in meteorology in Toronto.

Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Gietz spent seven years with Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service in Toronto, Moose Jaw and Edmonton.

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